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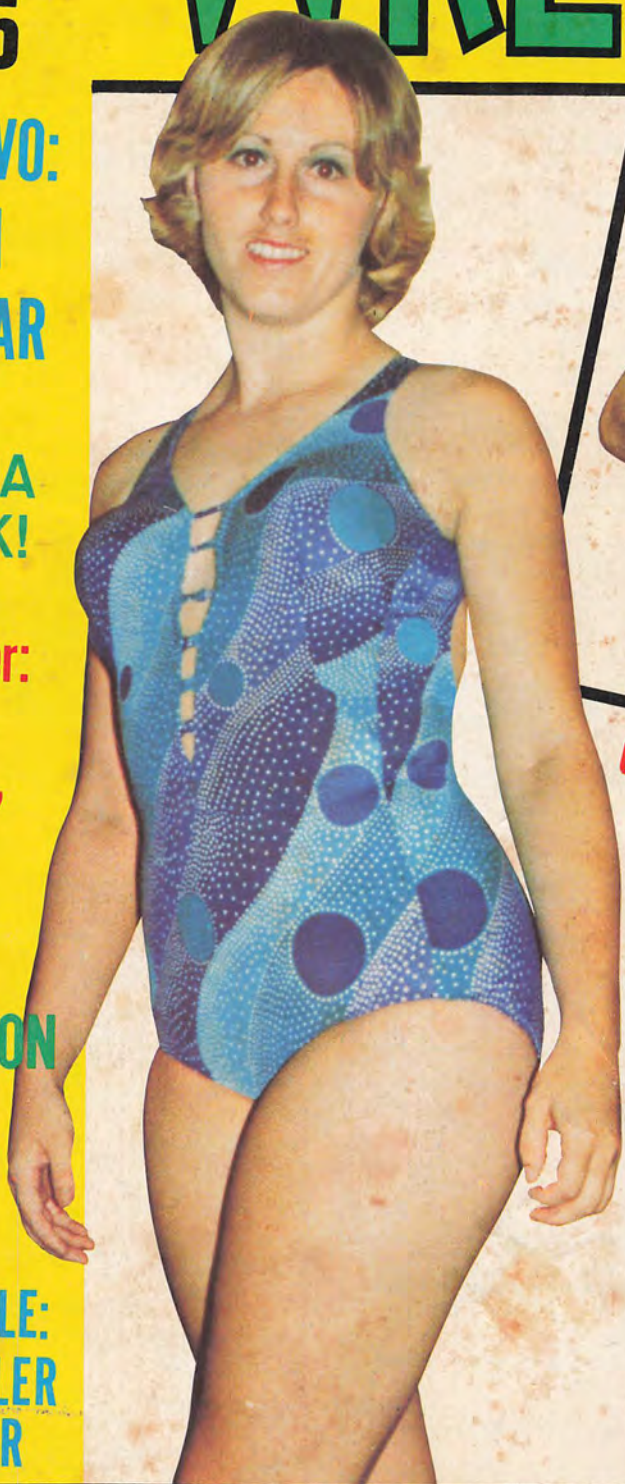
**DINO BRAVO:
ITALIAN
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**NATASHA
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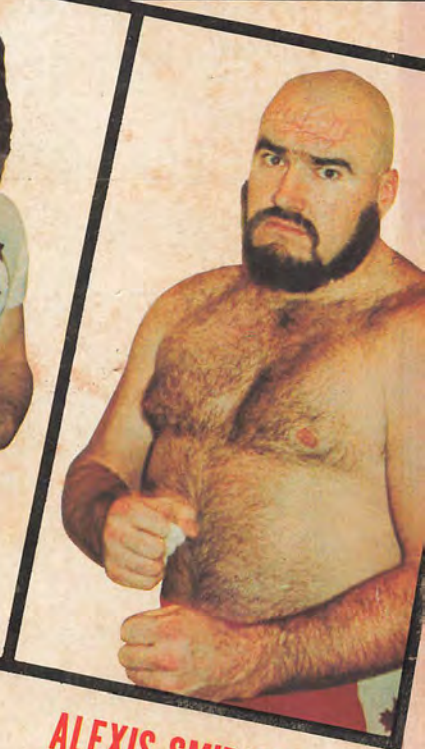
**Jerry Lawler:
"King of
Wrestling"**

**WFIA
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**JOYCE GRABLE:
GIRL WRESTLER
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their shoulders, chest, biceps—and an inch or two less flab around the waist.

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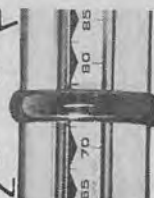
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AS I SEE IT

AN EDITORIAL

BY NAT LOUBET,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER



WRESTLING has had its ups and downs but at the moment appears to be riding the crest of a wave of fan interest that shows no evidence of diminishing. The mat game has been a successful enterprise for many years with many of the promoters using the same promotional methods . . . some of the ballyhoo and concepts seem to have gone back for generations. They are obsolete and one of the reasons for the growth of wrestling interest is that most of the wrestling promoters have recognized the need for new approaches and have been employing them.

The old idea that every German wrestler was a Nazi storm trooper and every Japanese grappler a former member of an elite military cast in Japan is outdated. The stereotypes are passe; a native American does not necessarily have to be a "Chief" and a Black wrestler does not have to adopt a "Super Fly" image.

The entire sport is adopting a more progressive modus of operation and it can only help give wrestling a brighter future.

There are many evidences of progressive promoting. Capitol Wrestling, an Eastern organization, has been very successful and has been following the trend of exchanging their topnotch stars with organizations from other areas. In their case, exchanges have been limited to major events and they may have to join the parade and exchange talent on a more extended basis in the future.

Some fine examples of the "new progressive look" are those of the Jarrett Wrestling Company, Tunney Sports Limited and Mid-Pacific Promotions. The Jarrett Wrestling office holds membership in both the NWA and the AWA and the same applies to The Mid-Pacific promoters. Frank Tunney goes one step beyond, in holding membership in not only the NWA and AWA but also in the World Wide Wrestling Federation, which housed the eastern group, Capitol Wrestling. A usual show put on in Toronto, Canada, will be sprinkled with major attractions from all the three groups. . . .

Another aspect of the progressive movement is seen in the television medium. Take, for example, the award winning Southeastern Wrestling program which has as a portion of their weekly show a segment called a "personality closeup." This gives the fans a chance to obtain an inside look at their favorites in a way that the average fan never gets a shot at. Not only does the wrestler talk about his career but also about his private life, which is one of the reasons the fans purchase wrestling magazines.

One of the forerunners in the promotional field with an insight as to what is needed in wrestling is Paul Boesch of Houston, Texas. He has been attempting for some time to sign a match between the NWA champion and the AWA title holder. It is doubtful if he will be successful but eventually the answer is for each area to have its own champion with a tournament to be held each year to determine the "real" champion of them all. This would give each area its own drawing card and, at the same time, give the sport a more universal acceptance.

Imagine what the annual tournament would do on television with each section receiving some of the loot? Wrestling would be as big as any sport on the air waves and new prominence would be given to the sport both at home and abroad. The winner of the tournament, the champion, would be a bigger attraction than any wrestler to date all around the world.

JOYCE GRABLE: GIRL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

Miss Grable gives Lelani Kai a dose of her own medicine. This match took place in Knoxville, after Joyce had appeared at the WFIA awards banquet, where she was named Girl Wrestler of the Year.



Joyce Grable, one of the top-rated women wrestlers in the world who was named Girl Wrestler of The Year by the Wrestling Fans International Association.

Story & Photos By JOHN AREZZI

EACH year, the Wrestling Fans International Association holds an annual convention in a major city in the United States. At the WFIA conventions, an awards banquet is held to honor some of the outstanding wrestlers and wrestling fans in our sport. This year, veteran girl star, Joyce Grable was picked as the "Girl Wrestler of the Year" in Knoxville, Tennessee. Joyce was elated about the award. "I'd have to say that this is one of my biggest thrills in the sport," she smiled. "I understand that there have been some outstanding girls chosen in previous years including the Fabulous Moolah, so I am happy to be put in that class."

Joyce attended the awards banquet, as she was on the card that night to face a rough competitor, Lelani Kai. I wondered if Joyce would be a bit nervous going into a match after being awarded the high honor. "A little bit," she admitted. "But, once the bell rings, I'll know what I have to do in the ring. I'm expecting a rough match from Lelani. I've wrestled her before, and she is a very capable performer." It was very obvious that Grable has a great deal of respect for her opponent. Kai also had respect for Joyce, but in a different way. "It is a great honor for any gal to be named wrestler of the year. Joyce has my respect for being named this year's recipient. But I wonder if the right gal won. Hell, I've compared my record to Joyce's and I think I've had a much better year than her. But, who's to say who is the right choice. I just hope she

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doesn't get too cocky inside the ring, because she'll have a big surprise waiting for her. I think she'll have the roughest bout of her life when she meets me tonight." I detected a bit of jealousy in Lelani's voice.

The fans knew about Joyce's award and gave her a fantastic ovation as she was presented a trophy outside the ring from the dean of all wrestling photographer/writers. Mr. Gene Gordon. But, once the ceremony was completed, Joyce had a task to take care of, defeating Lelani Kai. And if Lelani had anything to say about it, Joyce would be leaving the ring a loser.

Lelani wanted to show Joyce up on her special night and she began by attacking Grable before the bell rang. Kai kicked, punched, and pulled the hair of Joyce, until the referee pulled her away. Kai broke away from the official and threw Grable outside the ring. The blond landed on the cement floor with a loud thud. But, out there, she was able to catch her breath.

Joyce reentered the ring like a house afire. She immediately returned the favor by throwing Lelani out onto the floor. Grable would not be intimidated tonight! Lelani came back and caught Joyce in a painful headlock, which she turned into a choke hold. Then, surprising all in attendance, Kai wrapped her hands around Joyce's throat and lifted her up into the air. The move astonished the referee for a moment, but then he ordered Kai to release the hold, which she did, causing Joyce to tumble to the mat.

Joyce then decided that she had taken enough abuse. Grable grabbed Kai by the hair and yanked her down to the mat. She then prepared to leap on Lelani, but the crafty brunette moved out of the way in the nick of time.

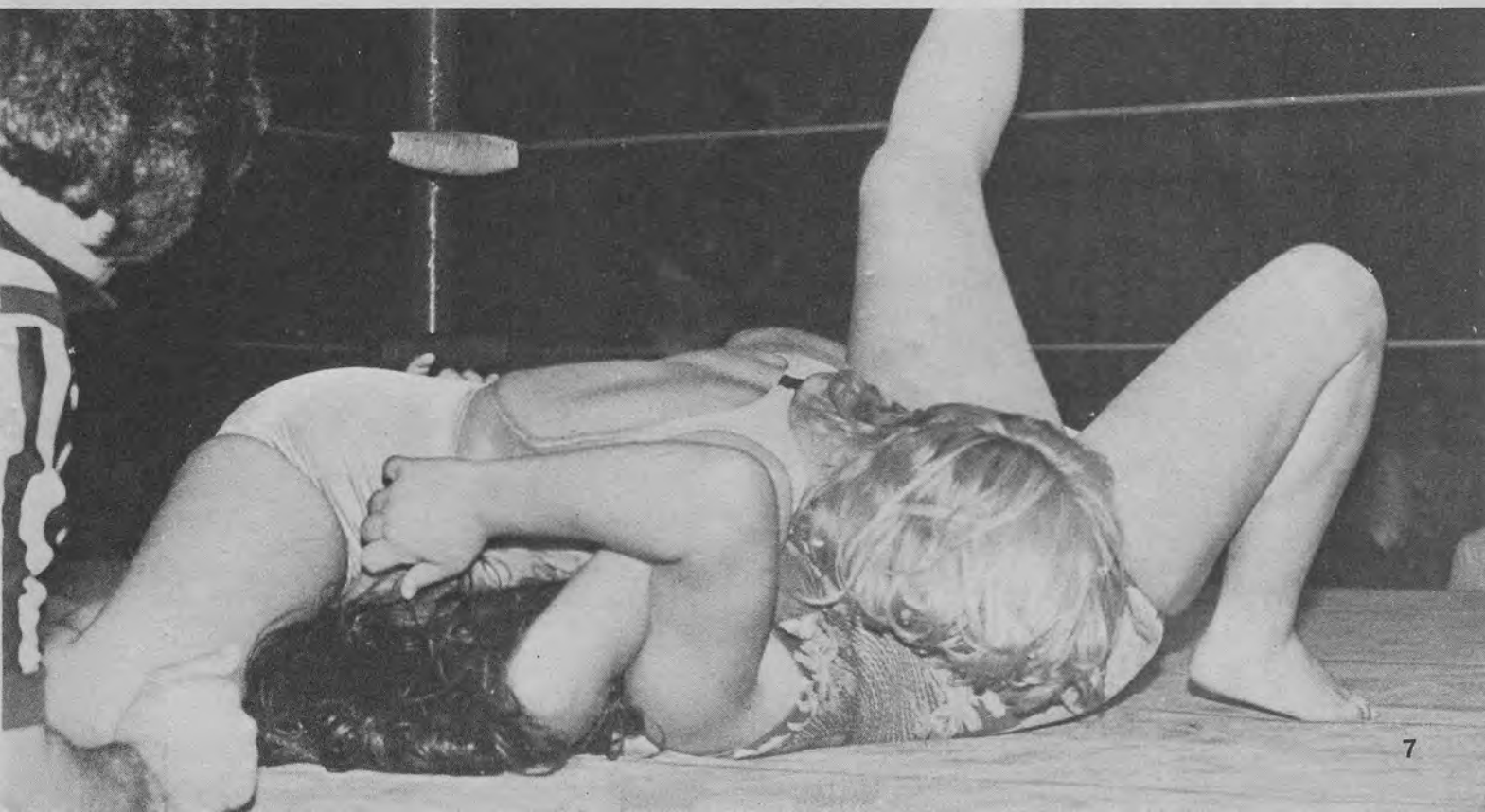
For ten minutes, the match see-sawed with the fans hooting and hollering with every dropkick, punch or kick. Then Kai made the fatal mistake which cost her the match. She attempted to dropkick Joyce, but the cunning blond veteran knew it was coming and grabbed Lelani's legs. Joyce then proceeded to airplane spin Lai until the latter almost passed out from dizziness.

Joyce then leaped on her stunned victim for the winning pin. The fans gave Joyce a standing ovation for a totally enjoyable match.

An exhausted Joyce Grable had just finished one of the roughest matches of her life. But, I'm sure, when she returned to her dressing room and saw the trophy naming her "GIRL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR," even the pain suffered during the match seemed worthwhile.



(Above) Lelani attempted to dropkick Joyce, but the cunning blond veteran saw it coming and grabbed her legs. (Below) After making Kai dizzy with an airplane spin, Joyce leaped on her stunned victim for the winning pin. The fans gave the Girl Wrestler of the Year a standing ovation.



DINO BRAVO: ON HIS WAY TO A TITLE

By GEORGE NAPOLITANO

"After seven years as a professional I feel that I am now ready to make my move!" These are the words of one of the brightest stars in the wrestling world, Dino Bravo.

Actually, Dino has been a success everywhere he's appeared. On four occasions the good looking Italian out of Montreal has captured a tag team title. With Victor Rivera, Gino Brito, Mr. Wrestling, and most recently Dominic DeNucci, Dino Bravo wore a tag team belt. But now Bravo would like to concentrate exclusively on single matches.

"I feel that I have nothing more to prove as a tag team wrestler. I want to wrestle by myself from now on. I feel that with my style, I could capture a few big singles titles around the country. Please don't think I'm bragging, but I've been around a while and I know my capabilities. Things have been going pretty good for me lately. If I keep on getting those breaks I'm sure that someday I'll be able to win a major title," Dino said.

Dino Bravo began his professional career in 1971. Being a neighbor of Gino Brito made it a little easier for Dino to break into the professional ranks.

"Gino really helped me, encouraged me and taught me those things I needed to know to survive inside the ring. Actually if it weren't for his help and guidance I don't think that I would be a professional wrestler today," Bravo said.

It took a few years before the learning imparted by Brito was able to sink in but once it did, Bravo was well on the way to a promising career.

Before coming to the east coast Bravo spent a considerable amount of time traveling around the country. The good looking Italian wrestled in Los Angeles, Florida, Georgia and the Mid-Atlantic region and in each territory Bravo was a success.

"Wrestling in Charlotte had to be the best training that I ever received," Bravo recalled. "While there, I wrestled top men such as Ric Flair, Black Jack Mulligan, and each one of these guys was a proven top notch wrestler. In the beginning, I didn't fare out as well as I should have. But eventually I got to the point where I taught them a thing or two."

Looking at Bravo one can see that the Italian spends a considerable amount of time "pumping iron".

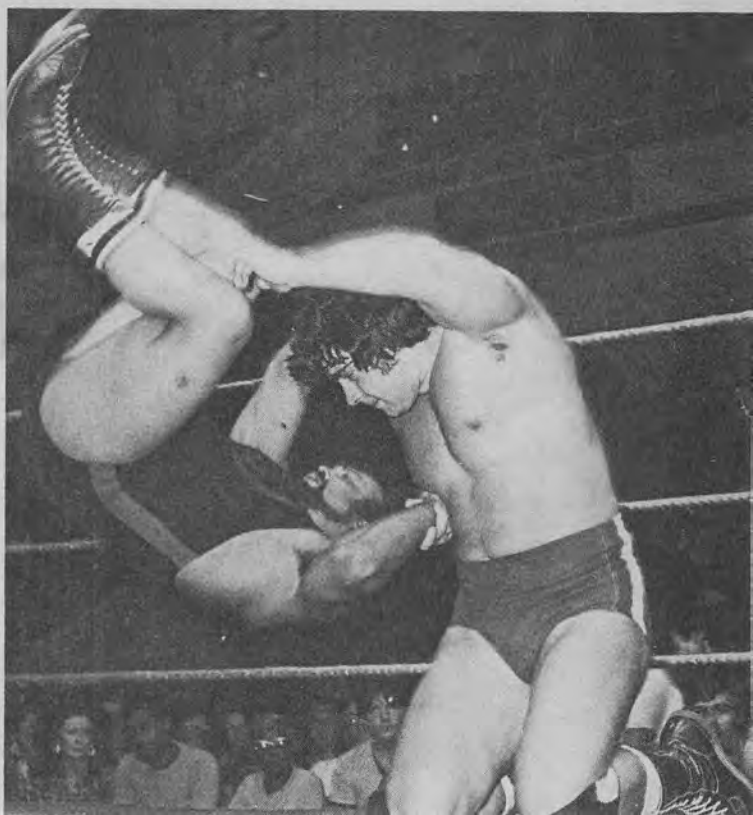
His physique is evidence of what happens after you spend countless hours in a gym.

"Pushing weights is almost like a hobby to me," Bravo stated. "Some guys feel that it's too much work to go to the gym, but if you don't do it you're definitely not going to last too long in this sport. I've always been a physical fitness nut. From when I was a youngster in Montreal I enjoyed going to the gym. But lately I've really been able to work out like I always wanted to. I make it my business to go to a gym no matter where I am wrestling at least four days a week. If I'm going to be in Philadelphia at night, I leave early enough so that I can go work out in the YMCA in

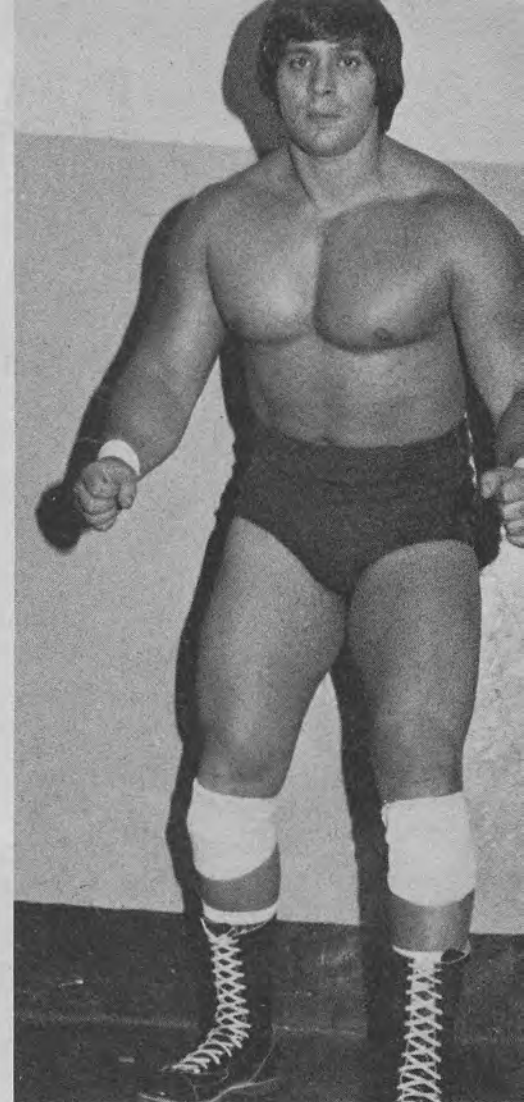
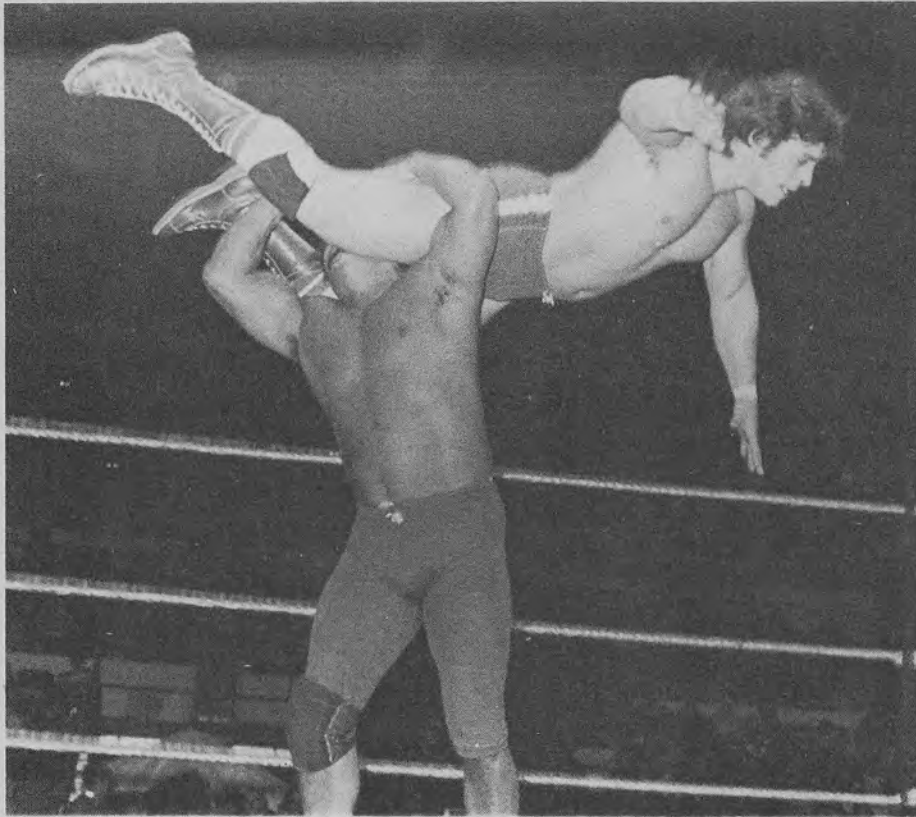
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Dominic DeNucci, left, and Dino pose with their WWF tag team championship belts. (Below) Bravo tosses Jose Estrada to the mat.

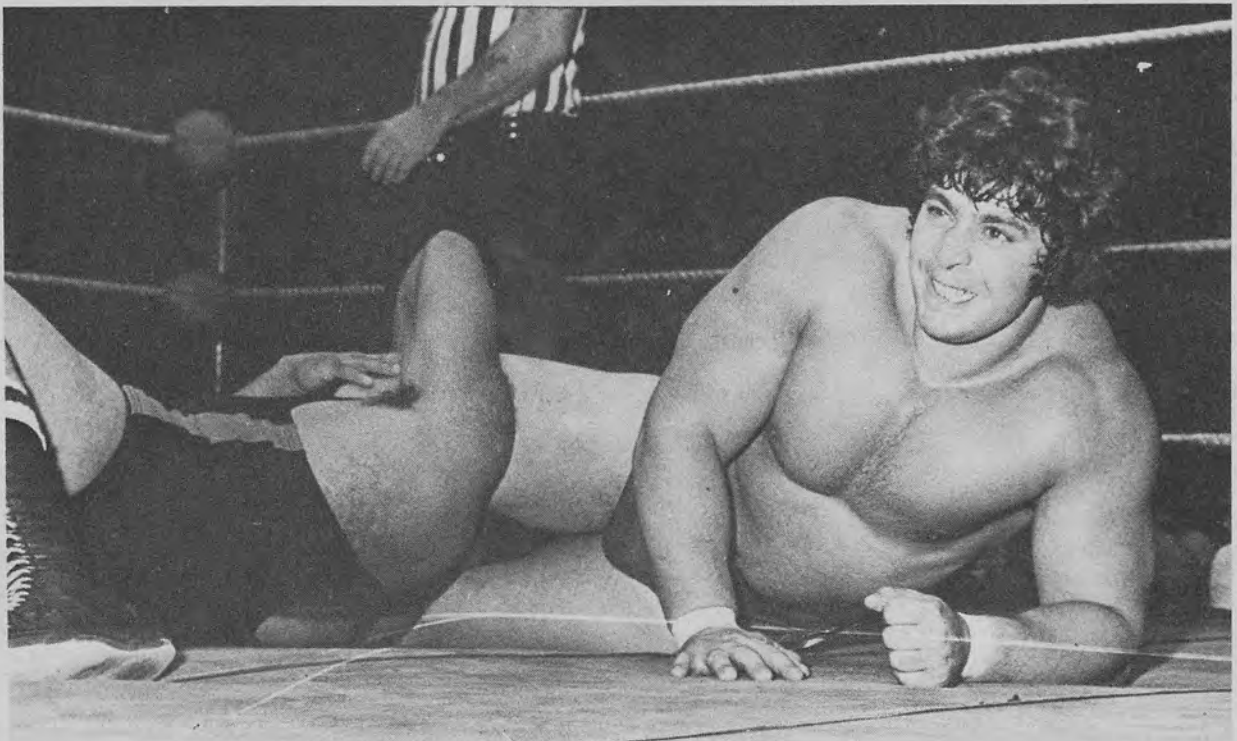


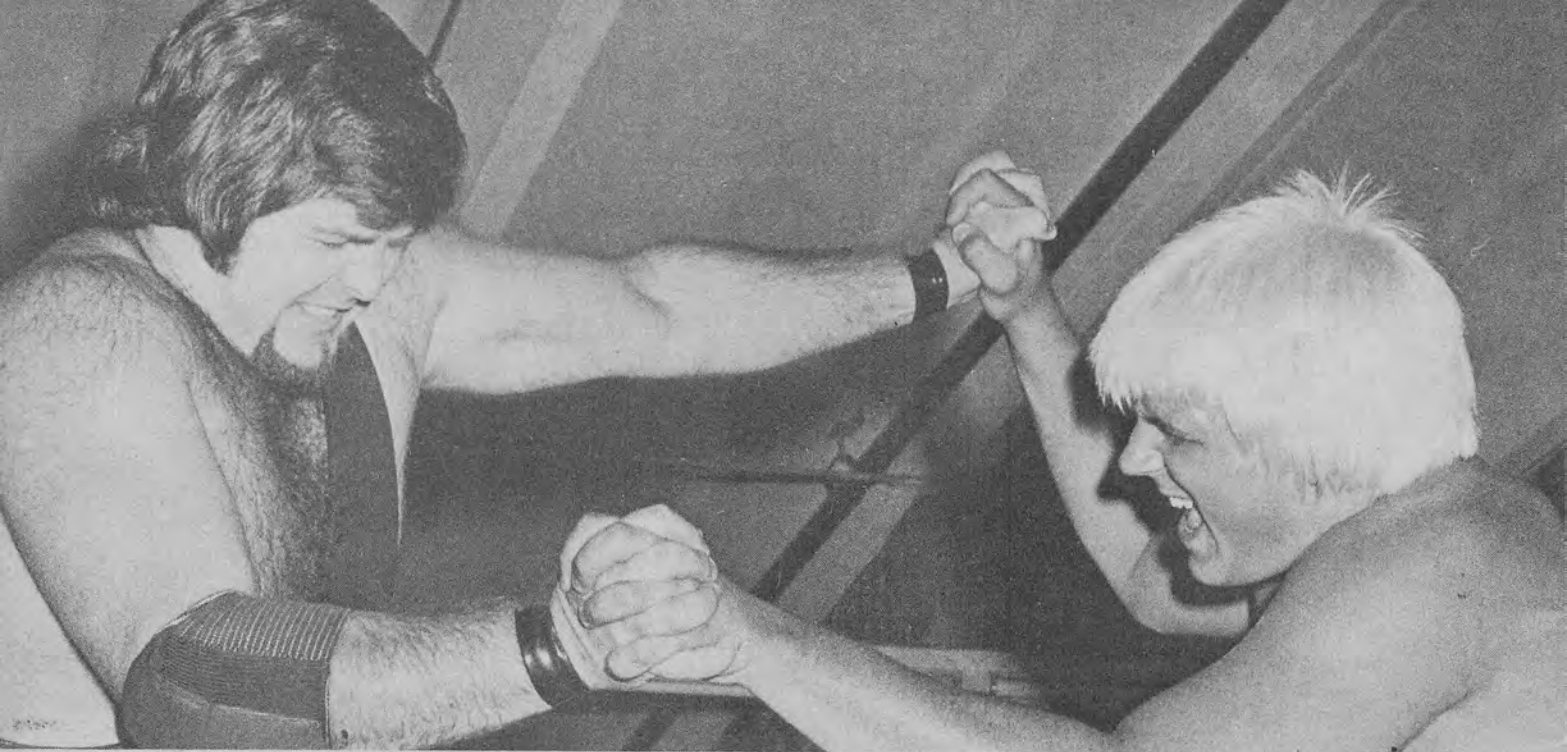
**HE'S WON TAG TEAM TITLES
WITH FOUR PARTNERS. NOW
HE WANTS TO WIN A SOLO CROWN**



(Above) Dino delivers a beautifully executed flying head scissors. (Below) Bravo has a leg scissors on Jose Estrada. Dino, who weighs 240, once bench pressed 545 pounds.

The popular and talented Dino Bravo. Dino has been wrestling since 1971 and feels the time has come to make his big move.





(Above) Jerry and Tommy Rich catch each other in a test of strength. (Below) Gorgeous George, Jr. is the victim as Jerry goes for the winning pin.



JERRY LAWLER: "THE KING OF WRESTLING"

By EDDIE GILBERT

SOME call him the King, some call him great, but this writer calls him a legend. The man I'm speaking of is Jerry Lawler, the current AWA Southern Heavyweight Champion.

It was a long road for Jerry at first, as it is for any wrestler first starting into wrestling. For three years he wrestled in small towns and was an artist for the Wrestling Monthly Magazine.

Promoter Nick Gulas and wrestler Jackie Fargo took an interest in Lawler's career. Fargo, being Lawler's teacher, was very interested in what happened to this young man. So Jackie worked very hard with Lawler to make him the BEST. Jerry became arrogant towards Jackie and left the Gulas wrestling area.

A year later Jerry returned, but not the way everyone wanted

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him to. Before he left he was a clean cut young fellow, but when he returned he had long hair and a beard. His wrestling style had also changed.

Three weeks after returning, Lawler teamed with Mim White to take the NWA Mid-American Tag Team championship from Len Rossi and Bear Cat Brown. The Lawler-White team was accompanied by valet and now notorious manager Jimmy "Cashbox" Kent.

The Lawler-White team was unbeatable and so good that veteran manager Sam Bass bought their contract. Under Bass' management, they captured the Southern, United States, South Eastern, and Tennessee Tag Team titles.

About a year and half after teaming up, Jim White took ill and couldn't continue wrestling. Lawler tried to find a new partner, but was unsuccessful in his attempt.

Manager Bass and Jerry had a long talk. Sam and Lawler decided to try for a singles title. That talk with Bass was a major spot in the King's career.

Before they could get started on the singles belt, they ran into some trouble. Manager Bass was beaten up on television wrestling by the Infernos with manager J.C. Dykes. Jerry came to the rescue along with enemy Eddie Marlin. Bass and Lawler became instant good guys. Marlin and Jerry tried desperately to take the world tag titles from the masked men but were unsuccessful. Then the promoters signed a title match, with Lawler teaming with his teacher Jackie Fargo. Four minutes into the match Lawler and Bass turned on Fargo, and Jerry was again the villain.

After attaining the Southern heavyweight crown Lawler had his eyes set on the NWA world's champion, Jack Brisco. To get to Jack, Lawler defeated Bobo Brazil, The Sheik, Jerry Brisco, Dory Funk, Jr., Harley Race, and Mr. Wrestling II.

Lawler was declared the winner against Brisco for the world's title, but the decision was reversed when the referee found a chain that Lawler used on Jack.

"King" Lawler battled Brisco two more times to time limit draws.

As Jerry was working his way back up the ladder for a crack at Terry Funk when he was champion, Sam Bass was killed in an automobile accident. A lot of people told Jerry he was nothing without Bass. But he proved those people wrong. He went on to battle Funk for the world title to a sixty-minute draw.

As of now, Lawler is risking his Southern heavyweight title against challenges from Joe Leduc, John Louie, The Mongolian Stomper, and Lou Thesz.

Jerry is now a fan favorite and looks as though he will stay that way. He has cut four records and just released an album entitled "Jerry Lawler's Greatest Hits".

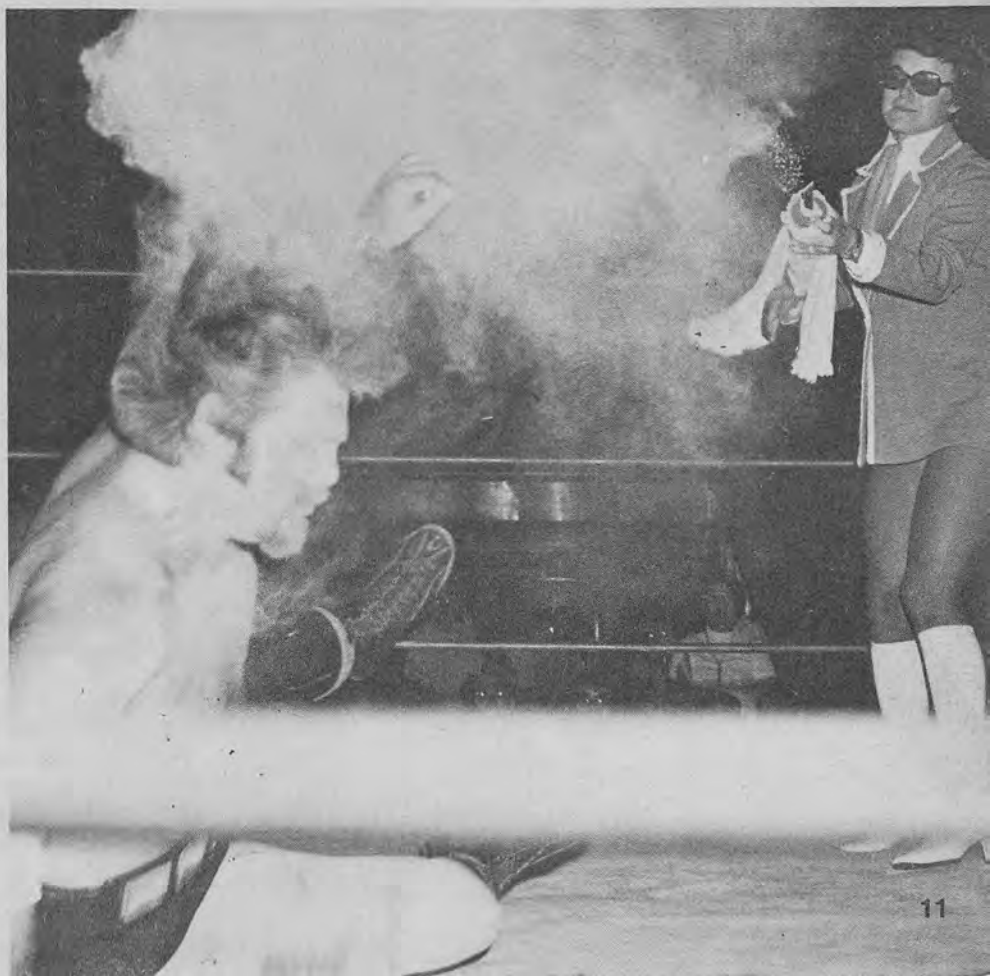
He is indeed "The King of Wrestling."

Gorgeous George Jr.'s valet gives Lawler a spray of perfume.

JANUARY, 1979



(Left) Jerry "The King" Lawler. Photo by Jim Cornette. (Above) Lawler walks out of the ring after another victory.





Natasha poses for the RW camera. The lady is back and ready to take 'em all on, she says.

The Princess Is A Ball of Fire. Girls, Watch Out!

By GENE GORDON

THE Princess is back!

Late last spring, I had a phone call. The minute I picked up the phone, I recognized the voice. The owner of the voice was none other than Princess Natasha, one of the greatest girl wrestlers ever to step into a ring.

The lady from New Mexico informed me that she was back wrestling. I was amazed. Natasha had injured herself in a fall at a shopping center in a well known city in the Sunshine state.

I was thrilled to learn that Natasha was wrestling again. This ball of fire lady wrestler was out to re-conquer her past glories and more. She has done just that.

Natasha is no stranger to wrestling wars. She has appeared all over the U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico. She was the very first lady ever to appear on a wrestling TV card in Alabama, against Anne Casey.

During her career, before she was set back, she held such titles as the Southern Girls' Heavyweight, Arizona Girls' State championship, the Mississippi Girls' championship, and, recently, has added the U.S. Girls' title and is also the co-holder of the Girls' World Tag Team championship with Beverly Shade.

Natasha is out to secure one thing, and that is the world's championship. She has met Moolah before and it was one of the toughest matches in the career for both of the girls.

The Princess is ready and willing to take on anyone and her ability to the ring is fortified with just a little "bar room brawling" to add color. However, the lady is not to be put down. She is one hell of a wrestler.

So a word to the wise . . . Natasha is back. Girls Watch out!

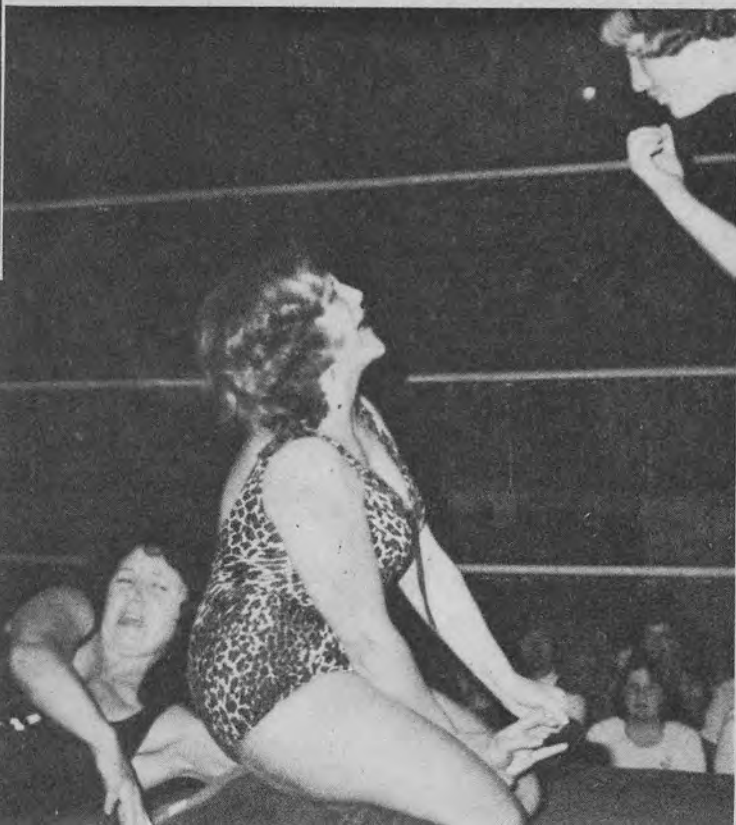
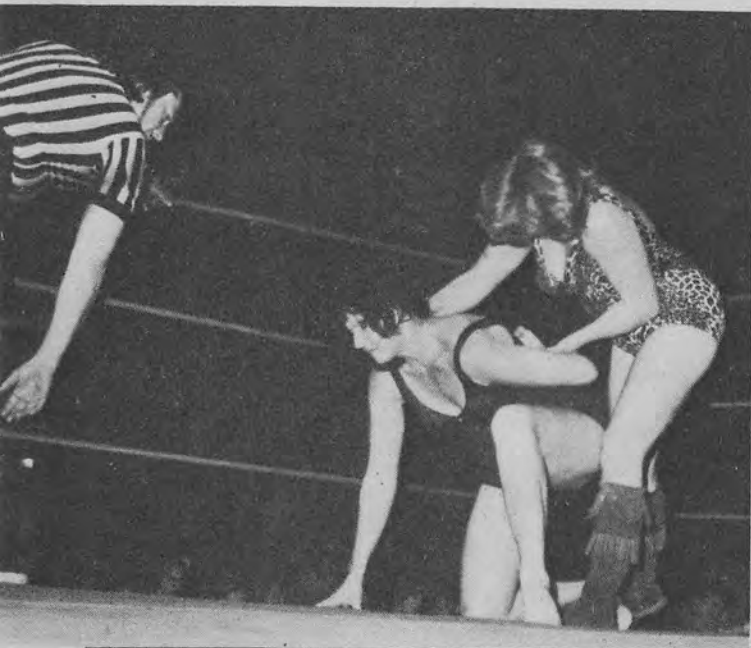
NATASHA IS BACK



Moves like this put Natasha on the list of the "girls to hate" charts.



(Above) The Princess works over an opponent. (Left) Natasha puts the pressure on Anne Casey with an arm bar. (Below) The Princess has Miss Casey on the mat and works over her fingers.



ALEXIS SMIRNOFF: THE MAD RUSSIAN

By ALLAN BOLTE

RINGSIDE seats were completely sold out. Spectators were filling up the arena. It was finally time for the matches to begin. In one of the main events, the "Mad Russian," Alexis Smirnov, would meet popular Dean Ho of Hawaii in a match the fans were sure would provide plenty of action.

After the preliminaries were over, Ho walked down the aisles and greeted his thousands of admirers with smiles and a wave. Seconds later Smirnov stormed down the aisle, tearing up a ringsider's program and spitting on a fan who yelled an insult at him.

He jumped into the ring and ran after Ho, who was signing autographs, and kicked the popular Hawaiian in the back, knocking him against the turnbuckles. He then grabbed him by the hair and threw him over the ropes and onto the hard concrete floor.

The fans were shocked. They knew Smirnov was a madman, but they had no idea that he was this vicious. He kicked and hit Ho and continued working him over until the referee warned him that he would be disqualified if he continued to fail to follow the rules.

Smirnov simply pushed the referee back and continued injuring Ho even more and the referee finally ordered that the bell be rung, disqualifying Smirnov and awarding the match to Ho.

That didn't stop Alexis. He kept hitting and kicking Ho until a few wrestlers from their dressing rooms had to intervene and separate the two.

On his way back to the dressing room, Smirnov turned around and re-entered the ring, grabbing the microphone from the announcer and challenging anyone to step into the ring with him.

"That man is crazy," a ringsider shouted about Smirnov. "One of these days he is going to get himself killed. Or, at least fined and suspended by the wrestling alliance. Some wrestler is going to come along and show him a thing or two."

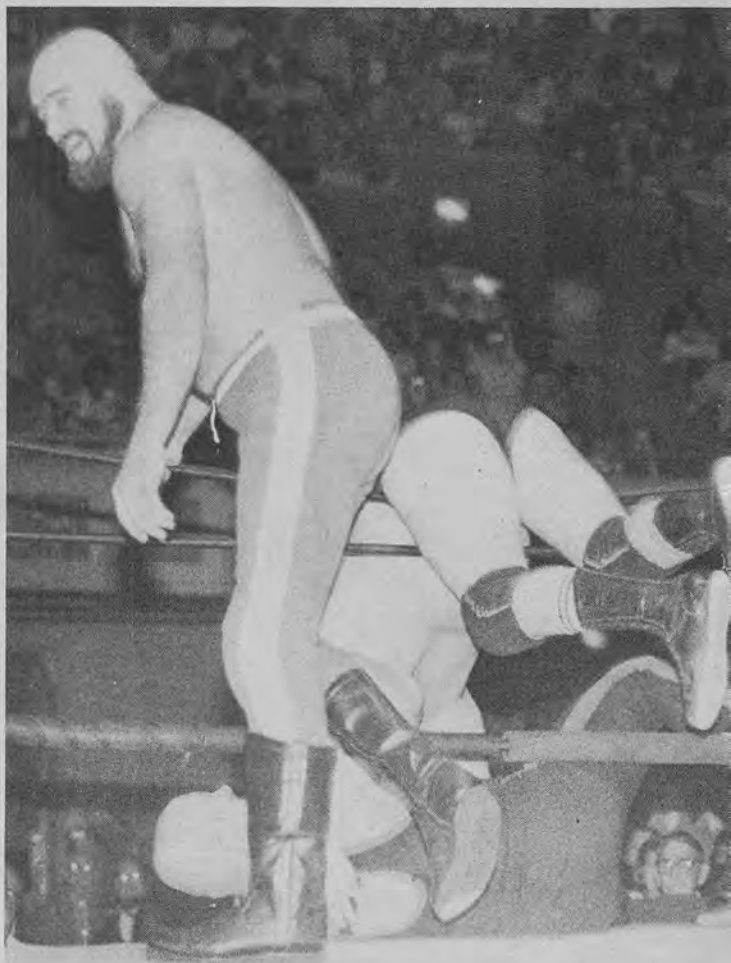
Yes, Smirnov is extremely hated by the fans and it's with good reasons. He doesn't pay any attention to the rules that govern wrestling, he never signs an autograph (although he is seldom asked for one), and he is extremely rude to the spectators, calling them every name in the book and often challenging them. Many say he is not a wrestler, but an animal who would do anything within his power to be victorious.

What does Smirnov say about the fans' attitude towards him?

"I don't care what those beasts say about me," he shouted. "I am not wrestling them, so why do I care what they think of me? I have challenged many fans who insult me to step in the ring with me to find out who the better man is, and they are all afraid of me."



(Above) Alexis Smirnov after another hectic match with Kevin Sullivan. (Below) Smirnov tosses Pepper Gomez right into his own tag team partner, Kurt Von Hess. Alexis says that he would rather wrestle alone than in a tag team match.



"I'll tell you what aggravates me. The wrestlers, referees and promoters—particularly the referees. They are all extremely prejudiced against Russian wrestlers. I am tired of it. Even if I was the true winner of the match, like in my match with Ho, they disqualify me. Why? Because they are prejudiced against me!

"I obviously had Ho beaten. I walked away and he was carried away, but still what happened—that lousy American referee disqualified me. Someday soon I will pay them all back for the wrong they have done to me. Just wait and see."

Smirnoff has held the United States heavyweight championship and he has met such topnotchers as Pat Patterson, Dean Ho, Alberto Madril, Chavo Guererro, Ray Stevens, Mando Guererro, Roddy Piper, and others. He formed a successful tag team combination with former AAU and Olympic Wrestling champion Bob Roop and the two were known as "Murder Incorporated," defeating all their competitors and injuring many of them.

Smirnoff recently returned from a successful tour of Japan where he met and defeated some of the finest wrestlers there.

"I'll tell you a few things about Japan," Smirnoff stated. "Although I still don't like their people or their country—simply because it isn't Russia—they have more respect for a successful wrestler like me. They know talent when they see it. They don't care that I am tough, strong, and sadistic. They care if I win or not. They realize that wrestling is not for sissies, it is for tough men

who can take it. They had heard about my reputation and success I was having in the United States so they rolled out the welcome mat for me when I arrived. I was treated with class there, something I never get here.

"I sent two of their finest wrestlers to the hospital before I left the area and I am proud of it," Smirnoff continued. "You should have guessed that I would hurt someone while I was there, just like I hurt two or three wrestlers anywhere I go.

"That's why many wrestlers refuse to step into the ring with me. They know that they could be badly beaten by the time I finish with them. I get a sadistic thrill out of injuring my opponents and I don't see anything wrong with that. So many fans say I am too rough; they're darned right I am! And, I enjoy it that way. I want to win back the United States heavyweight championship and I will do it soon enough."

Smirnoff has had his success in wrestling but according to him it is not enough. He wants to cripple more wrestlers and win more titles.

He injured Mexico's Pepper Gomez several months ago, putting him in the hospital for almost a month and out of wrestling for two months. But, to him, that is just another ordinary night. If he is not busting somebody's skull he simply isn't happy.

What made the man want to get into wrestling?

(Continued on page 58)



(Above) Smirnoff clutches Pepper Gomez. Bob Roop tried to get involved by giving Gomez a shot to the midsection. Pepper retaliated with a swift kick. (Right) Alexis puts the pressure on the late Lonnie Mayne. This was one of Mayne's last matches. Smirnoff won and Mayne was carried from the ring on a stretcher.



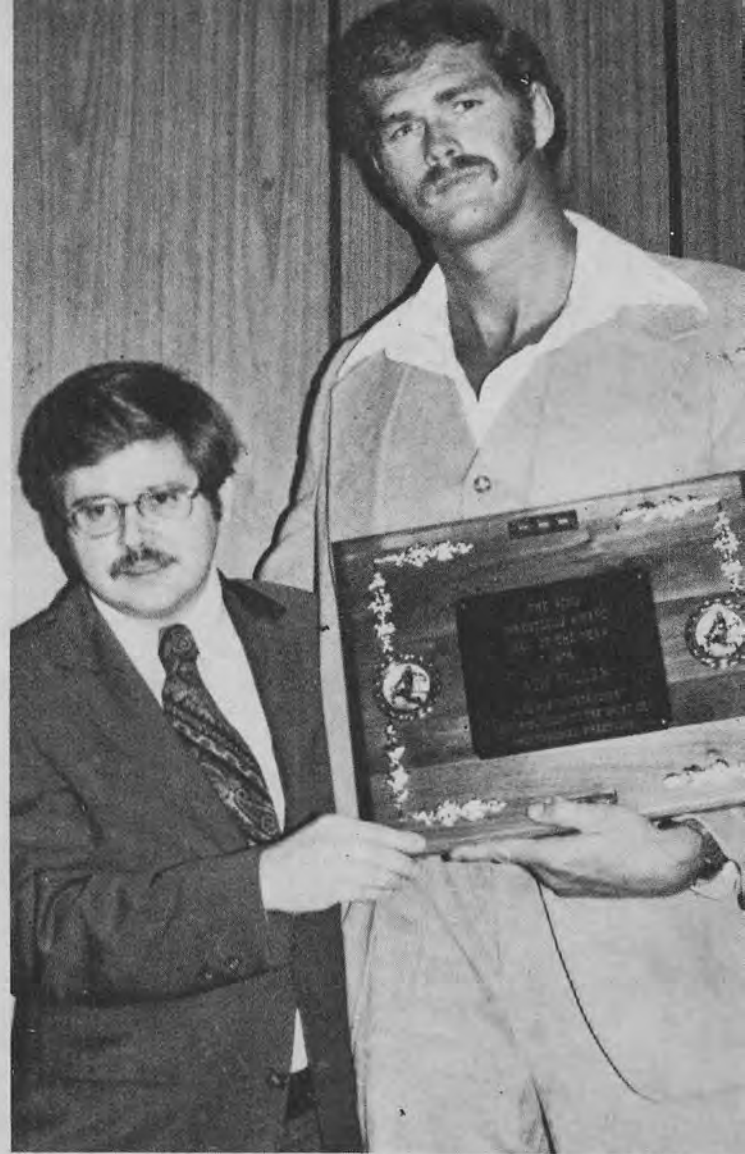
11th ANNUAL WFIA CON- VENTION IS BEST EVER



By TOM BURKE

THE Wrestling Fans' International Association has presented eleven annual wrestling conventions since its formation in 1968. I have attended ten of these affairs from such wrestling centers as: Pittsburgh, Pa.; Miami, Florida; St. Louis, Missouri; Santa Monica, California; Detroit, Michigan; Atlanta, Georgia; Boston, Mass.; Kansas City, Missouri; and Dallas, Texas; This year it was in Knoxville, Tennessee. In my opinion, the Knoxville convention was the best yet.

Wrestling fans from all parts of North America came for the three day affair, which was held at the Andrew Johnson Hotel in downtown Knoxville. The contingent of fans came from such areas as: California, Massachusetts, Texas, Michigan, Georgia, New York, Colorado, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Florida, Manitoba, Canada, New Mexico, Illinois, Pennsylvania, North and South Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Vermont, New Jersey, Kentucky, Maryland and of course the convention state itself Tennessee. Over 120 wrestling fans attended the three day affair. It was the largest WFIA convention ever held and the three days of the convention were always filled with activities for the wrestling



(Left) Joyce Grable gives a few sweet words to the conventioners attending the banquet. (Above) Tom Burke, associate editor of Ring Wrestling, is dwarfed by 6'9" Ron Fuller. Ring Wrestling has been giving an annual award at the annual WFIA Convention for the past seven years.

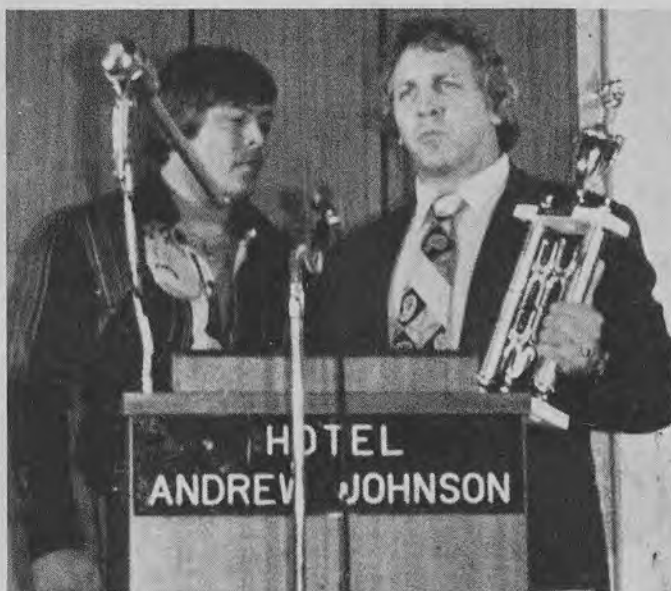
buffs.

The day before the official start of the convention, an awards presentation was made in Nashville, Tennessee. The recipient of the award was unable to attend the Knoxville convention due to his leaving for a wrestling tour of three weeks in Mexico starting the day of the convention. So, in order to present the award, arrangements were made with this certain wrestling personality to meet at the Peking restaurant in Nashville. When the famous wrestling celebrity came into the room he was greeted by some thirty wrestling fans who traveled down to Nashville to attend the informal gathering. The former world champion was extremely grateful and posed with fans for pictures and signed autographs and had words to say to every fan. The famous wrestling personality was none other than the legendary Lou Thesz. The former world champion gave a thrill to many fans when he showed off the original National Wrestling Alliance championship belt. Yours truly was one of the lucky ones to get to try on the famous gold, diamond-studded belt.

The first day of the convention was sign-in time for the conventioners with everyone getting to know everyone. Each conventioneer stood up and introduced themselves by giving their name



Diane Devine presents the Fan Club of the Year trophy to the mother-and-son combination of Joan and Raymond McGuire. They represent the Billy Francis Fan Club.



and where they lived. Mike Gratchner, the executive director, gave a welcome speech and gave a run down on what would be taking place at the convention. The afternoon meeting was visited by wrestler Bob Roop and announcer Les Thatcher. A series of subjects were discussed by both Mr. Roop and Mr. Thatcher. A question-and-answer session was conducted by the fans through moderator Eric Goldenberg. It was a very informative session for both the wrestling personalities and the fans.

The afternoon meeting also consisted of a slide-and-talk show conducted by this writer on wrestling memorabilia from my own personal wrestling collection. A wrestling collection of some forty years was presented and discussed in a one-hour presentation. Bob Roop and Les Thatcher both made comments and added some knowledge to the show. One slide showed a certain wrestler poster from New England dated in the 1960's. It was interesting to note that Les Thatcher was listed in one of the semi-main matches.

After the wrestling slide show a wrestling quiz was presented by Eric Goldenberg on a model of a TV College Bowl quiz show. The



(Left) 1977 Wrestler of the Year Tommy Seigler presents the 1978 trophy to Ronnie Garvin. (Center) Les Thatcher was on hand for all three days of the Convention. Les is one of the top wrestling commentators. (Right) Don Wilson, founder of the Wrestling Fans' International Association, says a few words to the many fans attending the Convention.



quiz panel consisted of four wrestling fans on two teams. It was a highly entertaining and educational battle of wits.

One of the most popular items at every convention is the annual WFIA Auction. The auction is done by this writer. Various wrestling paraphernalia is auctioned off with the funds going into the coffers of the Wrestling Fans International Association. The auction this year was well stocked with such wrestling items as jumbo color pin ups of wrestling stars as: Harley Race, Terry Funk, Superstar Graham Mil Mascar, old wrestling magazines, a wrestl-



Phil Hickerson on the far right, is flanked by his manager, Ron Wright, with Dave Drason next to Dennis Condry. Drason managed Condry and Hickerson a few years back.

ing record by Jerry Lawler, photos, T-shirts and lots more. The highest bid was placed on a poster of Superstar Billy Graham which went for a total of \$12.00 purchased by a zealous Graham buff from New York City. The funds are channeled into the WFIA to cover the cost of awards, publicity and the like to offset any liabilities which may come up in the course of the year.

Mike Gratcher announced that there would be rides available that night for a wrestling card in Tazewell, Tennessee. We all attended the Tazewell card and really enjoyed the fine matches. For anyone who has never been through Tennessee all I can say is that it is a bit like Olde New England and our ride to Tazewell by Eddie Gilbert was very enjoyable.

The matches in Tazewell were quite exciting and the wrestlers made themselves available for picture taking and an autograph session. The matches were very good and the fans got to see some favorites that had left their territories and were wrestling in the Knoxville circuit.

After the Tazewell matches, a convey of automobiles went back to Knoxville and the fans gathered together and chatted about wrestling till the wee hours in the morning.

The next day was the highlight of the convention with the annual awards banquet in the afternoon. The morning meeting was filled with a discussion about the matches in Tazewell as well as the an-

nual wrestling college bowl conducted this year by Eric Goldenberg. The quiz consisted of two teams of four fans each. Eric would give a question and the team member that answered would then be given a bonus question. The quiz is always a highly enjoyable part of the convention and the knowledge of the fans is really surprising. After the quiz Eric closed the morning meeting and informed fans that the afternoon meeting would be the banquet and that an all star card would be held at the Civic Center in Knoxville that night.

Every year, the annual banquet seems to get better and better. This year it was outstanding. A host of wrestling personalities appeared as well as the local press, TV news crew and of course the fans. It was the best to date and it is no doubt an indication that others will follow.

The banquet consisted of a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. After everyone finished their meal the festivities began. Mike Gratcher started things off by introducing Don Wilson to the guests and the rest of the conventioners. Don is the founder of the Wrestling Fans International Association. A long and greatly appreciated applause was given to Don.

The awards started out with a bang with the tag team of the year trophy going to Phil Hickerson and Dennis Condry. These two

(Continued on page 62)

This display of David Von Erich earned an award presented by Roger Deem.





Barabas has Nyoka Nave tied up in the ropes.



Nyoka gets ready to toss Pepper LoBianco.



Pepper has Nyoka in an arm lock.

WILD MIXED TAG MATCH IN PUERTO RICO

Story & Photos By **GEORGE NAPOLITANO**

AIBONITO, PUERTO RICO—The fans of this beautiful town were recently treated to one of the wildest matches ever witnessed when Barabas and Pepper LoBianco teamed up to face the combination of Black Georgie and Nyoka Nave.

For sheer action and excitement, very few matches could top a mixed tag and this was no exception.

Pepper LoBianco and the Indian Princess, Nyoka Nave, were the first participants out of their respective corners and once these two women started tossing each other around the ring, the fans went wild. As could be expected, most of the cheering was for Nyoka and whenever the Princess found herself at a disadvantage the enthusiastic crowd would yell and cheer encouragement. This helped Nyoka on several occasions, especially when the Indian found herself trapped in the opposing corner with both Pepper LoBianco and the evil cunning Barabas working her over.

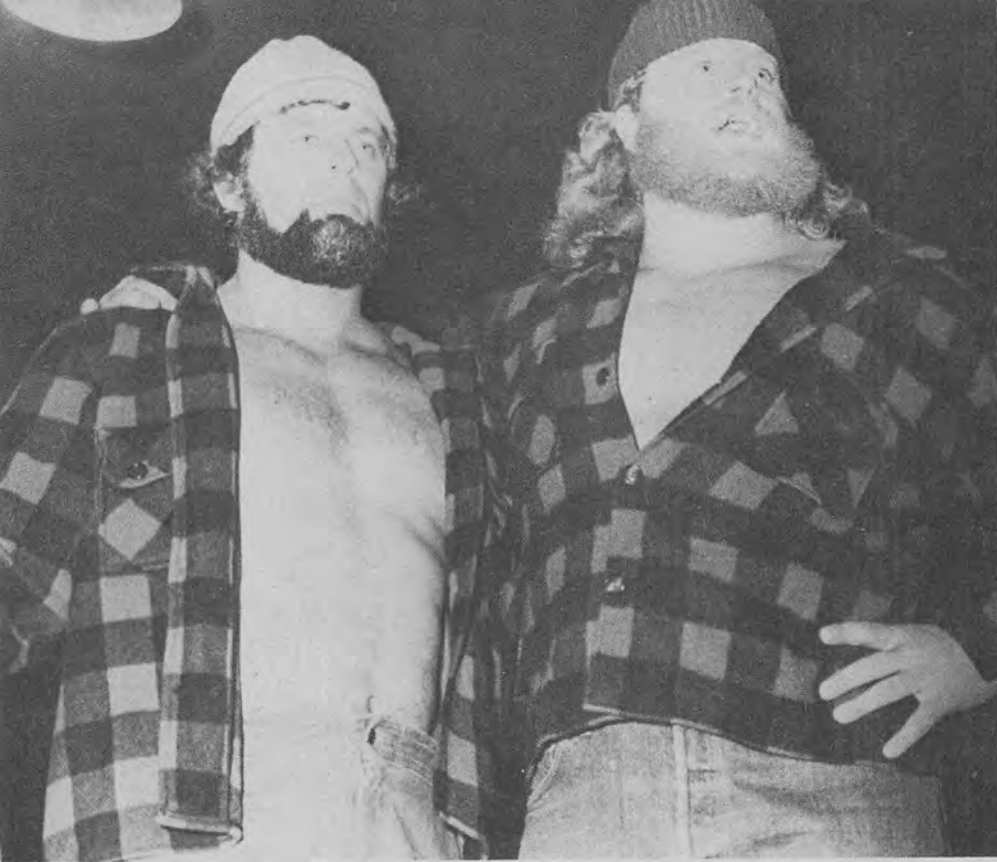
Quick action by Black Georgie prevented the Indian from any serious damage. Once tagging off, the Cuban native really surprised the crowd and also Barabas with his lightning fast display of dropkicks and maneuvers. Georgie's moves had Barabas begging for mercy but Nyoka Nave and the Cuban were not going to let Barabas get away easy. As Georgie maneuvered Barabas into the

(Continued on page 59)



(Above) Black Georgie prepares to slug Barabas. (Below) The winners! Black Georgie and Nyoka Nave.





(Above) The Lumber Jacks before a match. Pierre, the older of the two, is on the left. Eric is the curly-haired blond. (Below) The Champions! Pierre, Captain Lou Albano, and Eric.



"MY LUMBER JACKS ARE THE GREATEST!" SAYS THE CAPTAIN, LOU ALBANO

By GEORGE NAPOLITANO

"I did it again. I predicted that my Lumber Jacks were going to win the tag team title and my prophecy has come true. Now you can tell me what other manager has successfully guided seven teams to tag team crowns. Only I, the Captain, have done it, but that's a completely different story. Today, we are celebrating the reign of the Lumber Jacks, Pierre and Eric. They are perhaps the greatest fighting machine in the country today. No one moves like them. No one has knowledge like them. No one possesses the sheer brutality and unbelievable power that my team possesses. In short, my Lumber Jacks, Pierre and Eric, are the greatest."

The Lumber Jacks have been wrestling in the WWF since April, and from the moment they invaded the area, the two men from the Yukon immediately established themselves as one of the toughest teams in the sport. Pierre, the older of the two, has a very sound fundamental knowledge of all aspects of the sport while Eric, the curly haired blond, besides knowing various aspects of scientific wrestling, has tremendous power. His strength is simply awesome. Besides the unbelievable power, Eric, who stands over six feet, can also deliver drop kicks and flying tactics! His pet maneuver is a flying elbow drop that completely renders his opponent immobile. This move, when delivered by Eric, is so devastating that, in all probability, there is no one around today who would be able to get up off the mat after being on the receiving end of one of these drops.

With this kind of combination, many people felt that the Lumber Jacks would win the tag team belt with no trouble whatsoever.

THE LUMBER JACKS: WWWF CHAMPIONS



Eric works over Terry York as Pierre looks on. Eric's pet maneuver is a flying elbow drop that renders his opponent immobile.

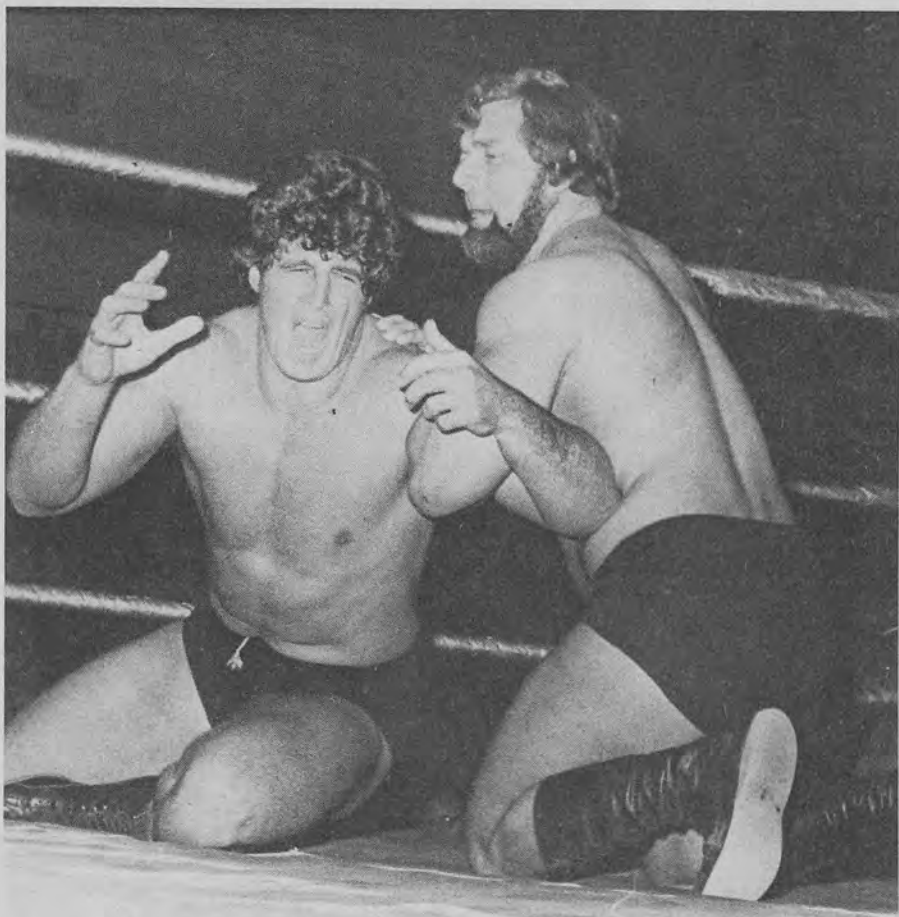


Eric's foot finds its way into Larry Zbysko's midsection as Pierre holds Larry for the punishment. The Lumber Jacks have established themselves as one of the toughest teams in the sport.

But Dominic DeNucci and Dino Bravo had other ideas. In fact, the Lumber Jacks faced Bravo and DeNucci on several occasions with the title on the line, but in each instance the Yukon natives were never able to win the tag team title belts. This changed, however, in June, 1978 in Madison Square Garden. The Lumber Jacks, after a hectic struggle, managed to come out on top and thus win the coveted WWF tag team crown. "I knew all along that we would win the belts," Eric related after capturing the tag team title. "But I will admit that Bravo and DeNucci are a good team. Still, they're not in the same league as Pierre and I. They're good, but we're great!" Pierre then added, "The Captain worked with us and we would like to give him our thanks for helping us gain this award. His guidance and infinite wisdom, combined with our great coordination and teamwork, is what did it. We hope to go down as the greatest team in the history of the WWF."

Actually, the Lumber Jacks are one of the finest, well coordinated tag teams to come into the area in quite some time. Their maneuvers inside the ring are well timed, and very precise. Their pet maneuver is a move they call the Double Axe. Once their opponent is tossed into the ropes he will invariably come rebounding off into the cocked elbows of both Lumber Jacks falling quickly down to the mat. Once on the mat Eric jumps high into the air and delivers his own "flying axe". It is with this maneuver that the Lumber Jacks frequently win all of their matches. "We've really got our teamwork

(Continued on page 63)



Pierre has an arm bar on Tony Garea. Pierre has a very sound fundamental knowledge of all aspects of the grappling art.

THE CHRIS COLT STORY

By TOM BURKE

IN twelve years as a pro wrestler, Chris Colt has maimed more wrestlers, caused more riots, established a greater hate than any other man in the profession. The story you are about to read is one of fact, no holds barred; it is the most graphic article ever written on the sport's most controversial wrestler, Chris Colt.

Life started for Chris Colt on May 17th, 1946 in a small town in Idaho. When Chris was nine years old, he moved, with his mother

and step father, to Seattle, Washington. It was in Seattle that Chris got hooked on wrestling through the marvel of television. Every Saturday night, at 11 pm, Chris would tune in to his favorite program, "Wrestling From Chicago's International Amphitheatre." Chris would watch the wrestlers with great interest and listen to the comments by TV commentator Russ Davis. It was his childhood dream that he would one day be a famous wrestler and would wrestle in the famous Chicago arena. The boyhood dream would come true fifteen years later for Chris, when he would be in a semi-main event at the Amphitheatre.

A paper route, odd jobs, hunting for refundable soda and beer bottles helped Chris to purchase his first admission ticket to a wrestling card at the Masonic Temple in Seattle. The excitement of attending his first wrestling event is something that we have all shared at one time. Remember the feeling you had at your first card? The noise of the crowd, the feeling of love and hate in the air, the smell of smoke, sweat, blood, and beer all rolled into one screen of air. All that triggered Chris Colt to make a goal for himself which was to become a pro wrestler. Chris purchased a wrestling program that night and still has it in his private collection of wrestling magazines, programs, photos, fan club bulletins and other various items.

It was through a fan club that I first came in contact with Chris. We were both members of the Pat Patterson Fan Club run by Marilea Niedzial of Berlin, Massachusetts. We were both the same age and had many of the same boyhood interests with the main one being wrestling. Mrs. Niedzial plays an important role in Chris' story and we will see how later in this article.

Chris had a great desire to learn more about wrestling after attending his first wrestling card. Since his Junior High School did not have a wrestling team the youngster joined the local YMCA. It was there that he first started to train and work out even though he was only 12 years old. Working out and training with the older and bigger boys at the Y was a great asset for him when he entered Senior High School and became a member of the wrestling team. The early lessons were also an asset for his making it as a professional wrestler. Colt was on the first string on the mat squad and did well winning letters his freshman and junior years of school.

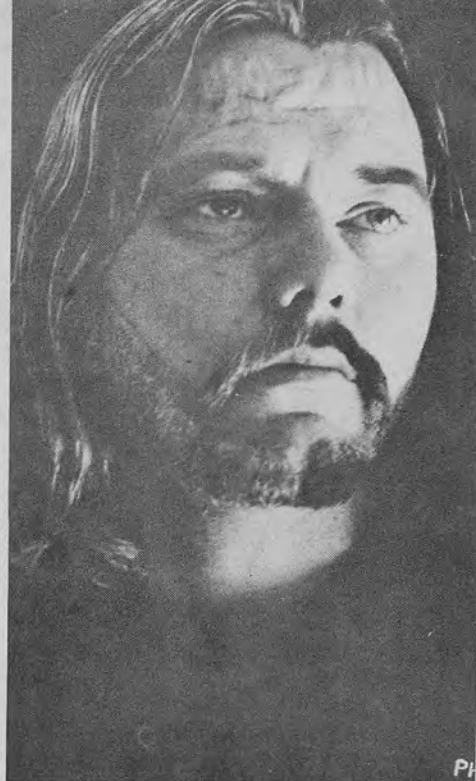
When not taking part in the wrestling activities in school, or the Y, or as that of a professional wrestling buff, Chris did what was coming natural to millions of kids in the early 60's. He was listening to the "New" sound from England by a group calling themselves The Beatles. The British group invaded the American shores and revolutionized the youth of the nation. Chris dug the new sound and the Beatle look. He began to employ their appearance and way of dress into his own life style.

The conventional short hair cut was out the window as far as Chris was concerned. He started to wear his hair longer in the style

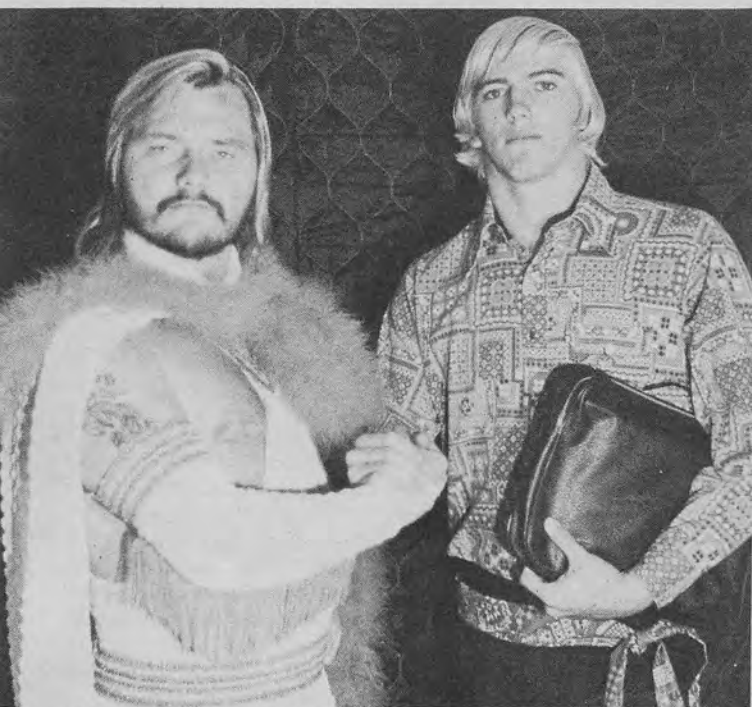


The Hell's Angels, Chris Colt and Ron Dupree, reunited in the mid 1970s.

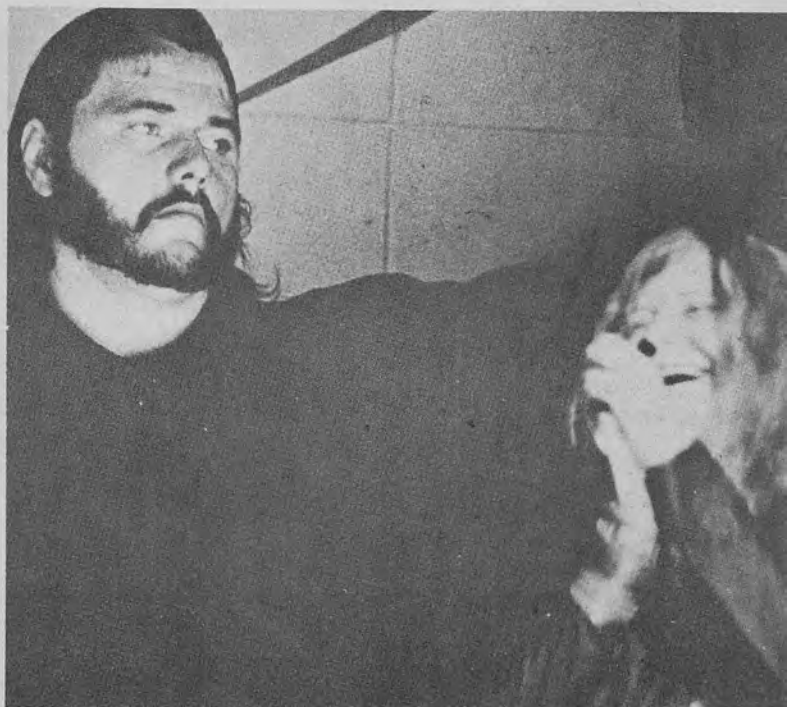
RING WRESTLING



(Left) Chris Colt started wrestling as Magnificent Maurice Chevier in 1965. (Above) A portrait photo of Chris Colt by Soudi. (Right) The Duprees became known as the California Hell's Angels and won the world tag team title from the Kangaroos in 1967.



Chris Colt and Billy "Anderson" Colt on the old gasoline circuit. Billy acted as valet for Chris and Bill Dundee.



Chris and Janis Joplin. Miss Joplin's death took a lot out of Colt.



Chris' battles with Mexican stars like Anibal, Raul Ryes, El Santos, and others have been nothing more than bloodbaths. Colt is undoubtedly the most hated wrestler in Mexico.



"Paul Dupree," as Chris was then known, teamed with Don "Fargo" Dillinger to form the Dillinger Gang. When Don and Chris split, Chris went back to Arizona as a single.



Chris' next stop was Omaha, he wrestled for promoter Joe Dusek. Ron Dupree was his manager, billed as Ronald of Hollywood. (Photo by Gary Mancuso)



The Chris Colt of today. He uses eye make-up, flamboyant ring attire, a giant walk, and enters the ring to the playing of an Alice Cooper song.



The Dillinger Gang, Jack "Don Fargo" Dillinger and "Jim Dillinger" (a.k.a. Chris Colt). Chris teamed up with Dillinger after Ron Dupree was injured in the match wherein Hell's Angels lost to the Kleins.



While in Seattle, Colt met a wrestler by the name of Count Drummer. They teamed up to become one of the most unusual tag teams in history.



The Grand Wizard and Marilea Niedzial. They played important roles in the Chris Colt story.



(Left) This is the way Chris looked when he started wrestling under his real name, Christopher Colt III. He later shortened it to just Chris Colt. (Right) Chris against Cowboy Bob Ellis in Omaha, 1972. Colt and Ellis have had a running feud going since their first meeting in Omaha.



of his music heroes. It was at a wrestling card one night that he decided that he should start to mode himself after the world heavyweight champion. So like his wrestling hero, Buddy Rogers, he dyed his hair to a blond. The applying of a mixture of iodine and baby oil to his body gave the look of a beautiful sun tan. The dyeing of his hair and instant "sun tan" was done in one week while school was released for mid winter vacation in February. When he returned to school the following week he told his friends and teachers that he was in Florida visiting with relations. This accounted for his tan but his hair was another story.

After his last class he headed to the locker room and started to get ready for wrestling practice. While getting ready, the coach and the principal walked into the locker room and confronted Chris about his hair. Words were exchanged and Colt attempted to tell them that the length or the color of his hair did not hamper his school work or his ability as a member of the wrestling team. He was instructed point blank by the principal that neither the length nor the color of his hair would be tolerated. He was told to get a hair cut and not to return till his hair was back to its natural color. The youngster protested but it did no good. The coach then made the remark that Colt looked like some kind of "queen" with his long blond hair. Colt's temper flew as did his fist with a right to the jaw of the youth instructor knocking him out cold. The KO caused Chris to be expelled from school, never to return. Chris couldn't have cared less then, for he was being himself. He was no plastic person like the rednecked crew cut guys around him. He was himself and doing his own thing.

For a young man of seventeen to be out of school in the cold month of February in Washington State is no fun. He was unemployed, friendless and, to top it all off, he was having a bad time on the home front. Colt realized that he had to make his move and that he did. He withdrew his life savings, packed his bags and headed out the door of his Seattle home. As he was leaving he kissed his mother and sister good bye, promising that he would return one day as a professional wrestler. He kept his promise, but the ten years in between had many ups and downs.

Colt headed to the Interstate highway and caught a ride after waiting an hour with his thumb sticking out. His destination was Chicago, Illinois. He had read that there was a wrestling school in the Windy City and that they not only trained wrestlers but also acted as a booking office. When he hit Chicago he checked into a hotel that cost him \$6.00 a nite. His stomach growled as he went to a nearby cafeteria. While eating he noticed a sign reading "Dishwasher Wanted." He applied for the job and got it. Colt felt that he was on the road to success. He had a pad, a job, and most important, the in to the road to become a professional wrestler.

The next day he met with the promoter. They talked and signed

a contract. Chris paid out a fee of \$400 in order to learn the grunt and groan trade. He was left with a little over \$75. The course amounted to working out every day, learning the moves and counters of pro wrestling, learning how to fall right, and other requirements professionals must know. After a month of training he was called aside by the promoter and informed that he was ready to make his debut and that he was booked to wrestle in a city in Canada in two nights. Colt was as excited as a youngster on Christmas morning.

His long awaited dream was coming true. All the training and leaving home was worth it. He was on his way to become a professional wrestler. He checked out of his hotel and went to the bus station and purchased a one way ticket to the debut city. The trip was long and hard. Upon arrival Chris went directly to the arena. Something was wrong. There was no posters on the marquee stating that there was wrestling there that night. In talking to the security guard he was told that there was no wrestling schedule nor had there been any matches in the city for some three or four years. He quickly placed a call to the promoter thinking that he was in the wrong city. Chris only got a recorded message from his telephone call. The phone was disconnected. Thoughts went through his mind like a fast jet. What should he do? Go home? Get a job in this French speaking city in Canada. He didn't want to go home a failure. Getting a job was out of the question. He knew he wasn't far from Boston and decided to head there and contact his only friend in the world, Marilea Niedzial.

(Continued on page 56)

RON, THE RISING STARR, IS AIMING FOR NWA TITLE



(Above) Former world junior heavyweight champion Ron Starr. (Right) Ron's spectacular hip-toss sends Buck Robley on his way to the mat.



By ROGER DEEM

WHAT do Billy Robinson, Jack Brisco, Dory Funk, Jr., Verne Gagne, Bob Backlund, Pat O'Connor and Lou Thesz have in common? Well, for one thing, they are among the most superb scientific mat men in history. Their knowledge of wrestling maneuvers is unquestioned.

Soon, that list may be amended to include the name of Ron Starr, who is quickly becoming the most skilled mat man ever to appear in the midwest. His smooth, scientific style has made him a particular favorite in Kansas City and St. Louis mat circles.

Ron came to the central states over a year ago. In his initial appearance, he donned a mask and billed himself as Mr. Wrestling. After a trying period of proving himself, Mr. Wrestling moved into main events and championship matches.

It was at this time that Ron became embroiled in a feud with Colonel Buck Robley and his Army of wrestlers. Robley realized that Starr was a very potent threat to his champions. His worst fears were realized when Mr. Wrestling and Black Angus defeated Bobby Jagers and Randy Tyler to win the area's tag team belts.

Mr. Wrestling then set his sights on the Central States Championship, then owned by Bruiser Bob Sweetan. Sweetan agreed to meet the masked man, provided he unmasked. Ron did so, but before the confrontation could be arranged, Sweetan lost his belt to Bulldog Bob Brown.

So it was an unmasked Ron Starr and Black Angus who lost their tag belts. The popular pair dropped the match to Buck Robley

and his new protege, Crusher Blackwell.

This lit the fire under Ron's chair. First he demanded a chance to settle accounts with Sweetan, then he wanted a showdown with Robley. He met Sweetan in a "taped fist" match and after a long, grueling struggle, Starr came out the winner. Robley lodged a formal protest with the National Wrestling Alliance, but Starr sneered at that.

"Anytime Robley or any of his men loses and he thinks he gets a little shaft on it," said Starr, "He's going to go to the NWA and start complaining, whether its a straight-up win or not. So, you know, to me it means nothing, no more than kicking a dog in the butt. And if that yellow-belly dog Robley will meet me in the ring, that's just where I'll kick him."

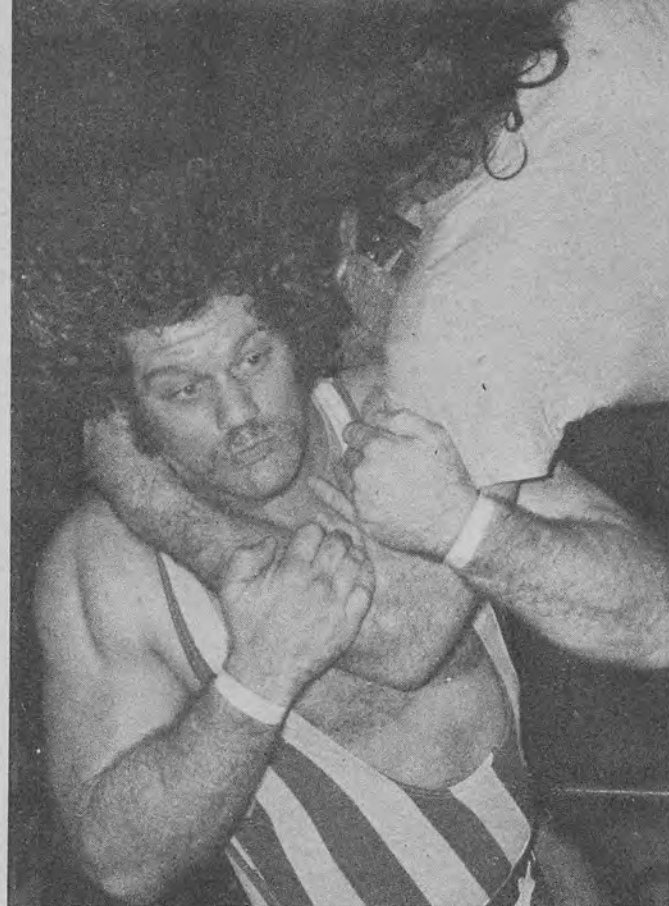
Robley claimed Starr didn't have a good enough record to warrant a crack at the Colonel. He agreed to meet Starr, but only after Ron earned the chance with several impressive victories.

An angry Ron Starr quickly did his part by racking up victories over men like Mr. Seki, the Executioner, Jagers, Tyler, Don Wayt, and Bob Slaughter. Following his win over former Central States king Slaughter, promoter Bob Geigel forced Robley to sign to meet Ron. Only after a threat of fine and suspension did Robley agree.

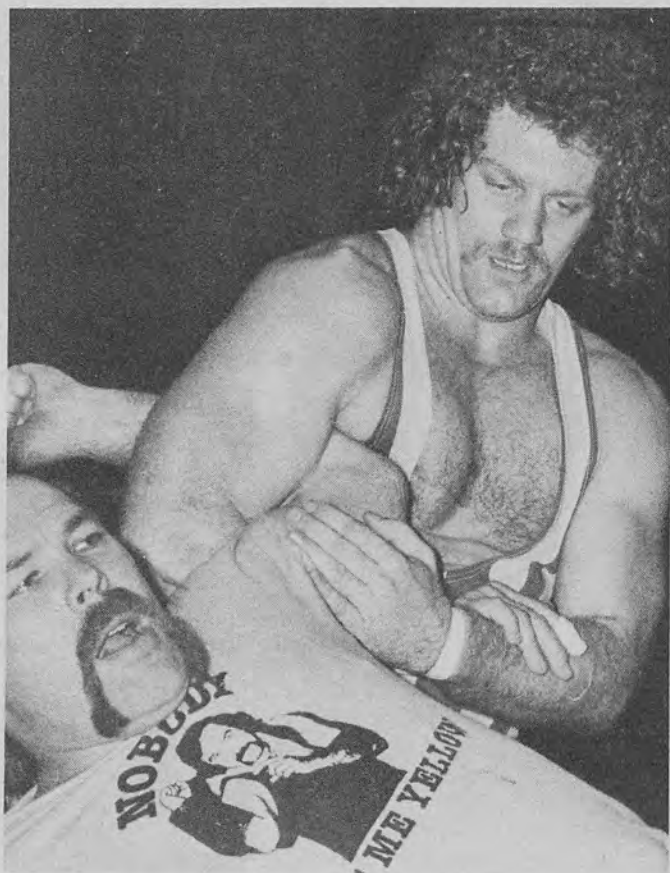
Now Starr knew that Buck Robley was no push-over. In fact, he had just wrestled to a bloody draw with N.W.A. king-pin Harley Race. If anything, this would prove to be one of the roughest matches in Starr's career.



Starr gets set to flip Robley again. Ron has beaten men like Mr. Seki, The Executioner, Jagers, and Bruiser Bob Sweetan.



(Above) Ron armdrags Robley. Starr is one of the most scientific wrestlers in the business. (Below) Ron belts Robley in the belly.



A determined Ron Starr clamps an arm lock on the frustrated Robley.

The fans came out by the thousands to see Ron Starr give Robley the beating he deserved. There was no man more hated in the area than Robley and the screaming fans were anxious to see him defeated.

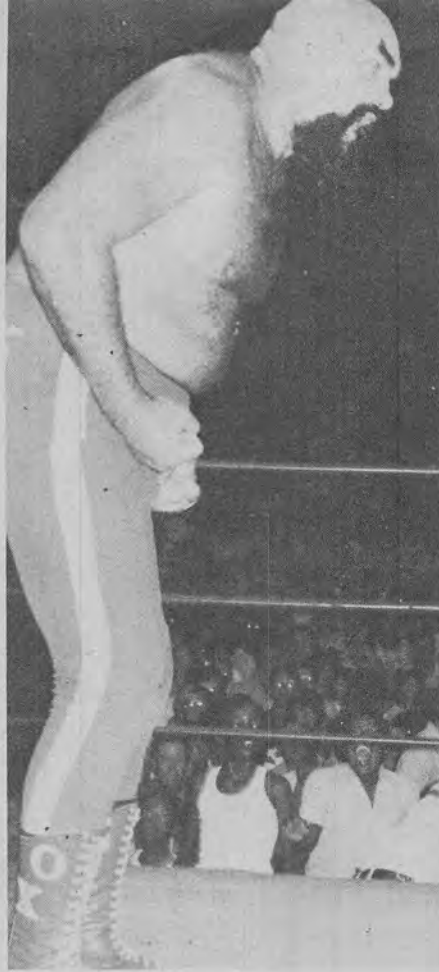
Both men had promised to destroy the other, but only Starr was able to keep his vow. He began the match with a series of

(Continued on page 40)





Superstar Billy Graham, former WWF heavyweight champion.



Ox Baker, considered by many as the meanest wrestler in the sport. He has been labeled as a sadist.



Spiros Arion was once considered as a hero by the fans. "Money changed my mind," says Spiro.

THE BAD GUYS SPEAK OUT

Story & Photos by JOHN AREZZI

YOU see them in almost all wrestling matches. They're the guys who kick, punch, scratch, bite, and ignore all the rules. They're the guys you love to hate, or just despise. They'll come back again and again to see the bad guys of wrestling get what they deserve.

What makes these men so mean and rotten? Do they hate hearing the boos night after night? These are just some of the questions that come to the mind when thinking of the villains. Well, RW will try to answer some of those questions now. We spoke to several of the top "bad guys" in wrestling and got some pretty interesting answers.

SPIROS ARION

From Greece, Spiros Arion had been wrestling for about fifteen years. What's so strange about this bad guy is the fact that Spiros held many a championship and was the idol of all the fans. Then, one night he turned his partner, Chief J. Strongbow and has since become one of the most hated villains of all time. What made him change his style. "I always knew I was world championship

caliber," Spiros stated. "I also knew my presence in an arena was worth a great deal to the promoters because everybody loved me. But, I was not getting the championship matches, the main events, the big money. I spoke to Fred Blassie about this and he said he'd make me a millionaire. I listened to his advice and it had paid off. Everywhere I go to now I get the title matches and the money I deserve. I have won 99% of all my matches and I am enjoying wrestling more now than ever before. I've seen the light, and I have Fred Blassie to thank for it. Let the fans boo all they want, I'll laugh all the way to the bank."

OX BAKER

The Ox is one of the most dangerous men in the business. He had injured many men, and some of the top wrestlers in the sport refuse to wrestle him. He is not only a bad guy, but appears to be a sadist also. "I love to hurt people," Ox snarled. "I've wrestled for years and I keep a list of opponents. I hate the promoters, and I hate the fans. I am the meanest man in the sport and I pride myself on being mean. If someone is rougher and can prove it to me by



Ernie Ladd, a former professional football player, has ben infuriating crowds for many years.



Ken Patera won a bronze weightlifting medal in the 1972 Olympic Games. He was a fan favorite for awhile, then turned into a brawler.

HOW DO THE VILLAINS REALLY FEEL ABOUT FANS-AND WRESTLING?

whipping the tar out of me, then I'll call it a day. But, I don't think that's going to happen!"

IVAN KOLOFF

Former WWWF champion Koloff is another perineal bad man. He had one of the best overall records in the sport today. The Russian Bear is built like one, and uses an assortment of scientific moves as well as rough house techniques. He could easily be a clean wrestler if he wanted, with the talent he possesses. "I was raised in hard times," Koloff replied when asked why he is a bad guy. "Only rough survived. I made it by being rough, and this sport is rough. Koloff don't care what fans think. Koloff don't see fans, just opponent. Koloff always wins. If I have to kick, I kick. IF I have to punch, I punch. If I have to use dropkick I use dropkick, and if I have to use chair, I use it."

KEN PATERA

Ken is one of the world's strongest men. He was in the 1972 Olympic Games and won a bronze medal in weightlifting. He came back to the USA a hero and turned pro wrestler. He was a fan favorite for a while, then turned into a brawler. Why did he change? "Basically for the money," Ken calmly stated. "I'm making a hell of a lot more now than I did when wrestling by the books, so to speak. I know I'm the greatest, will eventually become world's champion, and will become a legend. It doesn't matter if I wrestle by the rules or not. People will still come and see me. I feel more comfortable as a rule breaker than as a hero."

SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

The Superstar is a very unique kind of villain. He has wrestled by the rules in many areas, and has been a bad guy in others. But something makes him one of a kind. The fans seem to cheer him all the time. Even when he had just gotten done attacking a Bob

Backlund or Burno Sammartino, about 60% of the fans will still be cheering him. He has color, flair, and most importantly, ability to excite people. "I have to admit, I enjoy being cheered," Graham smiled. "But, that doesn't change my style at all. I always wrestle the same. The people love me because I am the only Superstar in wrestling. After I beat Bruno for the belt, people cheered me. After the match with Backlund, people came up to me and said 'Billy, you were robbed. We still love you Superstar.' I get a kick out of the fans. I'll sign an autograph or two, but won't overdo it. I am the Muhammad Ali of wrestling, always in the spotlight."

ERNIE LADD

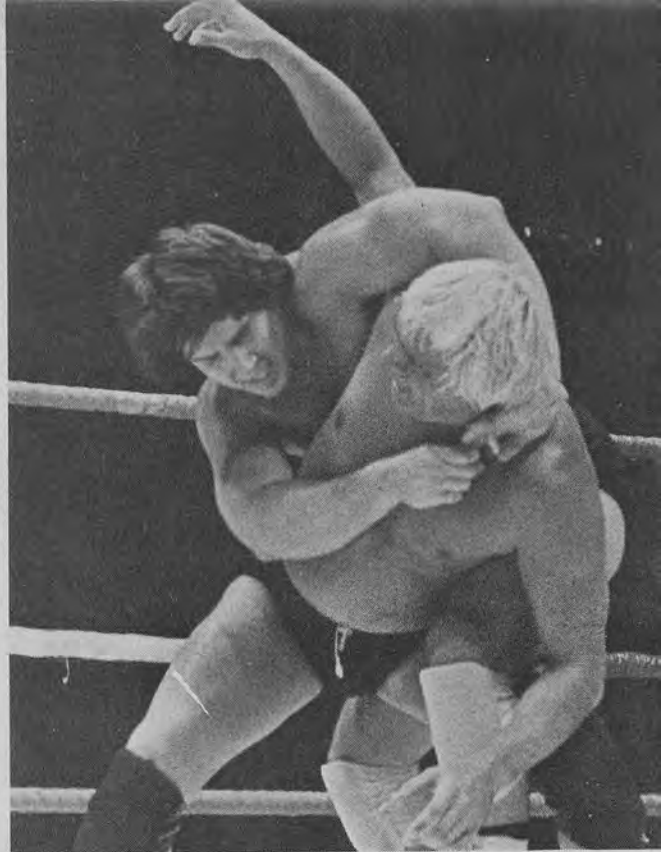
A former professional football player, "The Big Cat" has been infuriating crowds for many years. But, like Superstar Graham, he too gets cheers in some areas. But Ernie doesn't care if he's cheered or booed. "I don't care about the fans," Ladd said. "They can cheer me, they can spit at me, they can respect me, but I don't want their respect. The fans annoy me to a certain extent. The only thing I think of if I'm being cheered or booed is the fact that people know me and are reacting because I have talent. I'm the king of this sport, can whip any man, and can excite any crowd. The people should be thankful that Ernie Ladd is in this sport."

YOU can love them, hate them, and wish they get the tar beat out of them everytime they step into a ring. But, they add color and excitement to the sport. Although we might not approve of the tactics the bad guys use, it all pays off when a hero puts them in their place. Wrestling without villains?

Heck, it's like Billy Carter without a beer.



(Above) Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson are awarded AWA tag title belts in Omaha. The belts were returned the next day as the decision in their match with Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell was changed to a draw. (Right) Stevens keeps an eye out for the referee as he prepares to bail Patterson out of trouble. Steve Olsonoski holds Pat in an abdominal stretch.



THE BLOND BOMB-ERS ARE BACK!

By ROBERT J. RUIZ

JUST what does the team of Ray "The Crippler" Stevens and Pat "The Voice" Patterson have in common with the Johnstown flood and Hurricane Bulah?

They are all natural disasters and just about as welcome. The only difference is that Ray and Pat are paid for raising havoc while the others do it for nothing.

In just a short span of time, the two blond bullies have somehow managed to insult the working class, not to mention various ethnic groups, as well as seriously question the mentality of certain opponents. So as not to leave anyone feeling slighted, the duo have gone out of their way to alienate whatever support they may have had left by incurring the wrath of fans throughout the middlewest with their riot provoking tactics in the ring.

While their rule bending has brought Pat and Ray an impressive series of wins, various arena officials worry about the effect these wins may have on their communities. It seems wherever Stevens and Patterson go, there is serious discussion about reviving the death penalty. More than once, the California bad men have been forced to fight their way back to the dressing room through an unruly mob with only a handful of security guards between Pat and Ray and that big ring in the sky. One security guard in Omaha swore he heard some fan talking about a "necktie party for Stevens and Patterson" and you can bet it isn't the kind you wear to a church social.

The Stevens-Patterson combo have only been a comparatively recent addition to the AWA lineup. Previously, Ray and Nick Bockwinkle had firmly established themselves as world team champions of the league until they quarrelled and went their separate ways. Since that time, Stevens had gone through a variety of partners all courtesy of the AWA. Unfortunately, none of them "clicked", never coming close to the magic that existed with Bockwinkle.

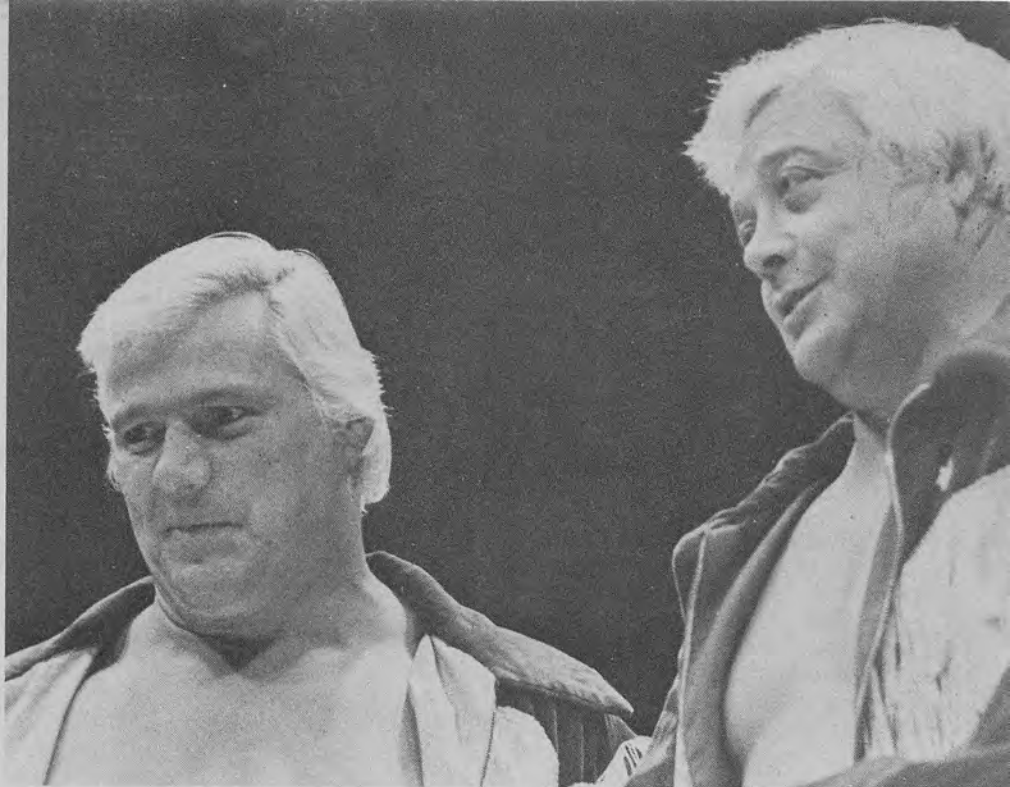
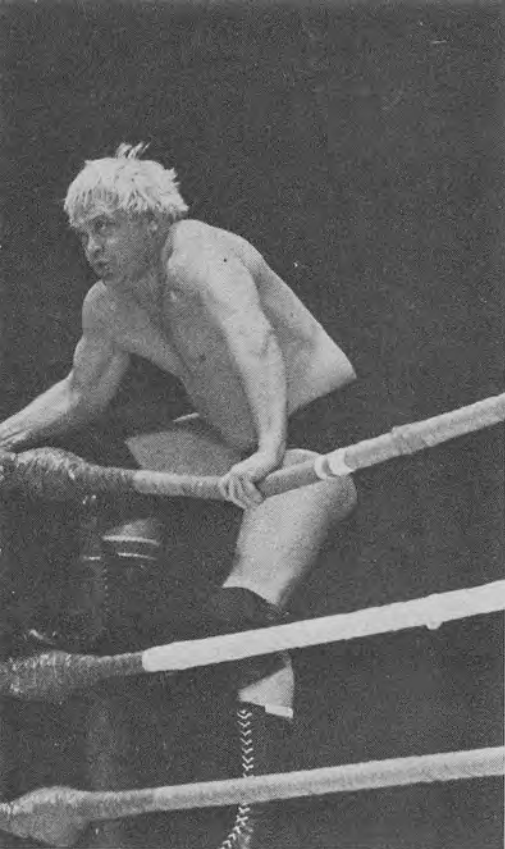
Stevens voiced his dissatisfaction with what he labeled inferior tag partners. He grumbled long and loud enough that the AWA finally gave him carte blanche, a free hand to import anyone of his choosing, at the league's expense. Ray immediately wired Patterson.

Since Bockwinkle had gone on to win the singles title, it became an obsession of Stevens to win the tag belts back. It was as if he was determined to prove to the world that he didn't need Bockwinkle and to crush the rumors that he (Ray) was slipping.

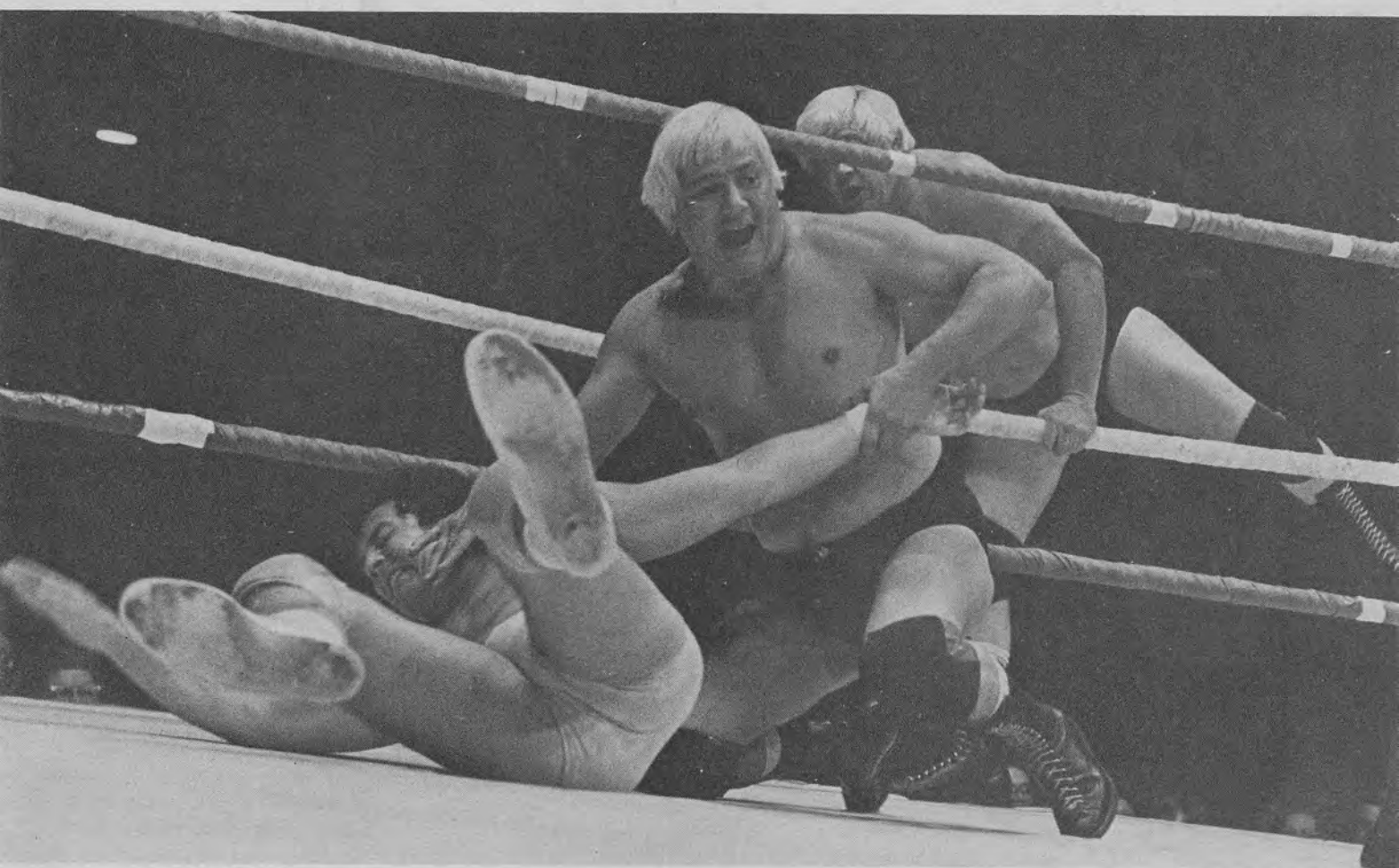
While many mat experts considered the Stevens-Bockwinkle team to be the best ever, the two men were worlds apart in sociologies and ideologies. With Patterson, Ray had someone he could relate to, someone more akin to himself in personality and background.

Interestingly, Pat and Ray have had parallel careers. Both making names for themselves as villains and working primarily on the

(Continued on page 63)



Patterson, left, and Stevens have incurred the wrath of fans throughout the middle west. They insult everybody—and everything. One security guard in Omaha swore he heard some fan talking about a “necktie party for Stevens and Patterson.”



Pat holds Greg Gagne down as Stevens comes on to assist. Their rule bending has brought the blond bombers an impressive series of wins.

The **RW** **MAT MAIL**

FAN LIKES OUR MAGAZINE

Every issue of *Ring Wrestling* is packed with the kind of articles that I like. Up-to-date articles, along with a touch of nostalgia, results, a real question and answer column, editorials with some meat, not cream puff types seen in other so-called wrestling magazines, logical ratings, interviews and much more. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by this fan and I only wish that you would be published more often.

Harvey Cohen
Ridgfield, New York

A FEW SUGGESTIONS

Even though I purchase *Ring Wrestling* everytime it is out I would like to suggest a few things that would improve the magazine. Number one: More columns in the back from all over the wrestling world. These are most interesting but in the last few years the reports seem to have gotten less and less. Have an action photo story every issue of a match between two top wrestlers. My third suggestion is that you should be printed more than four times a year. Monthly would be ideal, but I would be satisfied with six times a year.

Betty Dades
Lincoln, Nebraska

Editor's Note: Thank you for your kind comments on our magazine. We have been "wrestling" with the idea of going bi-monthly in the near future. If we get enough response to that idea we would then go forward in that direction. Your suggestion of an action story of a match is being taken into consideration. As for the columns in back of the magazine, we are always pleased to publish these contributing regional reports from our readers. Fans wishing to write about their areas are asked to send their columns to Ring Wrestling, On and Around The Mat World, 120 W 31st St., New York, New York 10001. It is interesting to note that some of our past Ring Wrestling corres-

pondents have been: Jeff Walton, now publicity director for the Hollywood Wrestling Club, Larry Matysik, now publicity man and TV commentator for the St. Louis Wrestling Club and Norman Kietzer, publisher of wrestling programs for such areas as the AWA, NWA, and Madison Square Garden in New York. Boyd Pierce of Dallas was our Texas man and now is the TV commentator for several promotions. Jim Barnett penned a column and is now the co-promoter in Atlanta, Georgia.

BOB ROOP CAN'T BE TRUSTED

Your magazine wasted valuable space when they did an article on Bob Roop. He is the lowest animal on the face of the earth and shouldn't be given any space in a wrestling magazine. I am not alone in the way I think. Ask any wrestling fan in Knoxville, Tennessee. He nearly was killed after his recent match with Kevin Sullivan. Roop should be barred from professional wrestling.

Jane Marshall
Knoxville, Tennessee

HAWAII IS TOPS

How can your magazine ignore wrestling's number one hot spot, Hawaii.

Promoters Ed Francis and Lord James Blears have brought the mat sport back to the islands and we have been seeing super talent here since they re-opened the doors.

We have such talented wrestling names as: John Tolos, Steve Strong, Big John Studd, Larry Sharp, Billy Francis, Tosh Togo, Chris Markoff, Professor Tanaka and Mr. Fuji, Tor Kamata, Don Muraco, Pampero Firpo, Karl Von Steiger, and lots more.

Professional wrestling is the hottest thing on the island and I'd like to see a full feature in a future issue of your excellent publication.

Sabino Helodo
Honolulu, Hawaii

RACE THE CHAMP

Fans on the East Coast call Backlund the champion, AWA fans hail Bockwinkel as the mat king, folks in the WWA territory call The Bruiser the world title holder and outside the confines of North America there are other wrestlers being billed as "world champion." Regardless, of the victories these or any other wrestler has, he will not be champion till he defeats the one true champion, Harley Race. Race holds the National Wrestling Alliance world heavyweight championship, which dates back to the days of Frank Gotch in the early 1900's.

Edward Houser
St. Louis, Mo.

RING WRESTLING TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

Just recently, one of your competitor wrestling magazines did a feature on Blackjack Mulligan and Rick Flair's bloody feud. What this magazine did not print was the true ending of this match. The unnamed magazine covered up the ending by stating the referee stopped the match due to both wrestlers losing blood. I know better: I was at ringside. The referee, Gene Anderson, held Blackjack's leg off the rope and counted him out! Prior to that, Anderson twice failed to count Flair out when Blackjack had him helpless and pinned. Please, the fans need to know the truth, not some cover-up story. Your magazine has always been a symbol of justice and justice must be done by telling the true story.

Steve Thompson
Norfolk, Va.

RATINGS LIMITED

I have been reading *Ring Wrestling* for several years and have always found your publication an open magazine covering wrestling from all over the world. However, I am upset over your recent changes in the ratings system. I think that you are forgetting the wrestlers that wrestle here in my country and elsewhere. They are unable to appear in your ratings since they do not compete in the three leagues you have listed. I feel it only fair that you institute a listing of international heavyweights in each issue of your otherwise fine magazine.

Jonathan Quirk
Birmingham, England

Editor's Note: Starting with this issue we have included the top ten international heavyweights.

JUST ASK RING WRESTLING

By TOM BURKE

WELCOME to the most authoritative question and answer column in the wrestling media. The Ring has been following the mat sport since 1935 when it first printed pages in its monthly boxing magazine.

Q. What is the most unusual tag team match that was ever signed?

C. Copel
St. Paul, Mn.

A. Promoter Ernie Mohammed of Phoenix, Arizona presented a tag team match involving a girl wrestler, a male wrestler and a male midget wrestler, facing a threesome of the same. The match took place on April 19th, 1966 in Madison Square Garden in Phoenix, Arizona. Lucy Dupree, Tito Montez and Cowboy Bradley defeated the trio of Mary Jane Mull, Gorgeous George Jr and Fuzzy Cupid.

Q. When did Maurice Vachon make his professional debut?

P. Lussier
Verdun, Canada

A. Maurice "Mad Dog" Vachon made his professional wrestling debut on June 20th, 1951 in Montreal. Before turning pro Maurice was a top amateur wrestler.

Q. How many ex-World Heavyweight Boxing Champions have become wrestlers?

B. Palor
Boulder, Co.

A. Primo Carnera, Ezzard Charles and Joe Louis all traded their gloves and trunks for a pair of wrestling tights after they retired from boxing.

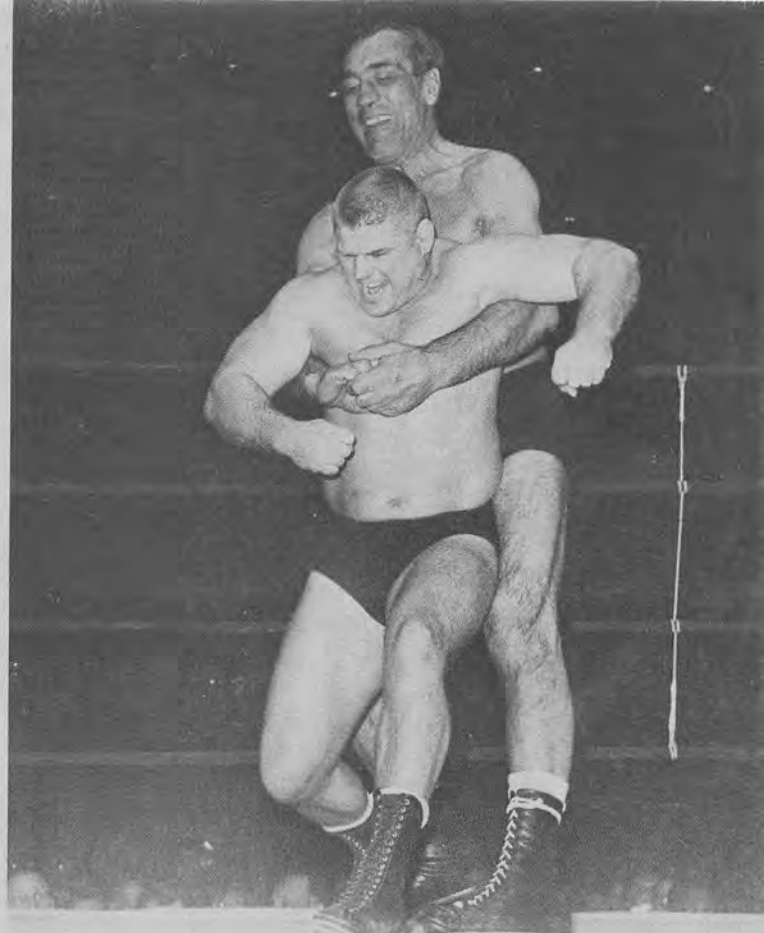
Q. How many twins are there in wrestling?

N. Lutz
Chicago, Ill.

A. There are four sets of twins currently active in professional wrestling they are: Tony and Ignatius Borg of England, Billy and Benny McGuire of North Carolina, Frank and Joe Gulla of Boston and Pat and Mike Kelly of Canada.

Q. How many times has Vern Gagne held the AWA world title?

R. Wiseman
Toronto, Canada



Former world heavyweight boxing champion Primo Carnera picks up Reggie "Crusher" Lisowski during a match in the early 1960s. Joe Louis and Ezzard Charles also became wrestlers when their boxing days were over.

A. Vern Gagne has held the American Wrestling Association championship a total of ten times. At this writing Vern is hot on the trail of current AWA king, Nick Bockwinkel.

Q. What ever happened to Ricki Starr?

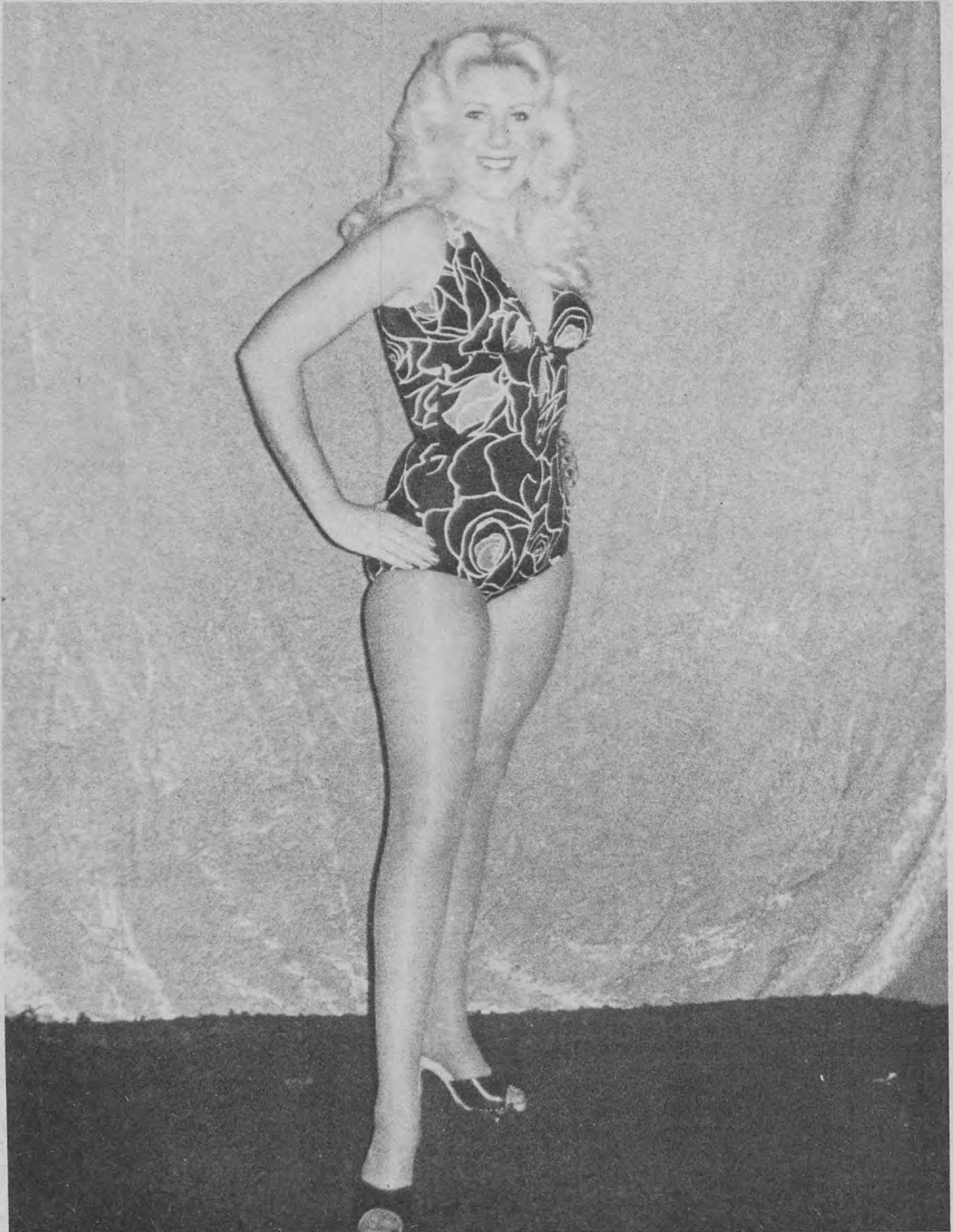
A. Valdyick
Philadelphia, Pa.

A. Ricki Starr is, still alive and well. He continues to be active in wrestling in Europe as well as working the cabaret circuit as a singer. Stories about Ricki taking parts in porn movies is completely false. Ricki is married to a lovely British girl and has a young boy about ten years old. The last time Ricki wrestled in the States was in 1975 when the International Wrestling Alliance was active. Rickie also returned from Europe in 1976 and wrestled in Mexico. At the present time Ricki is under negotiations with several promoters for an upcoming American tour.

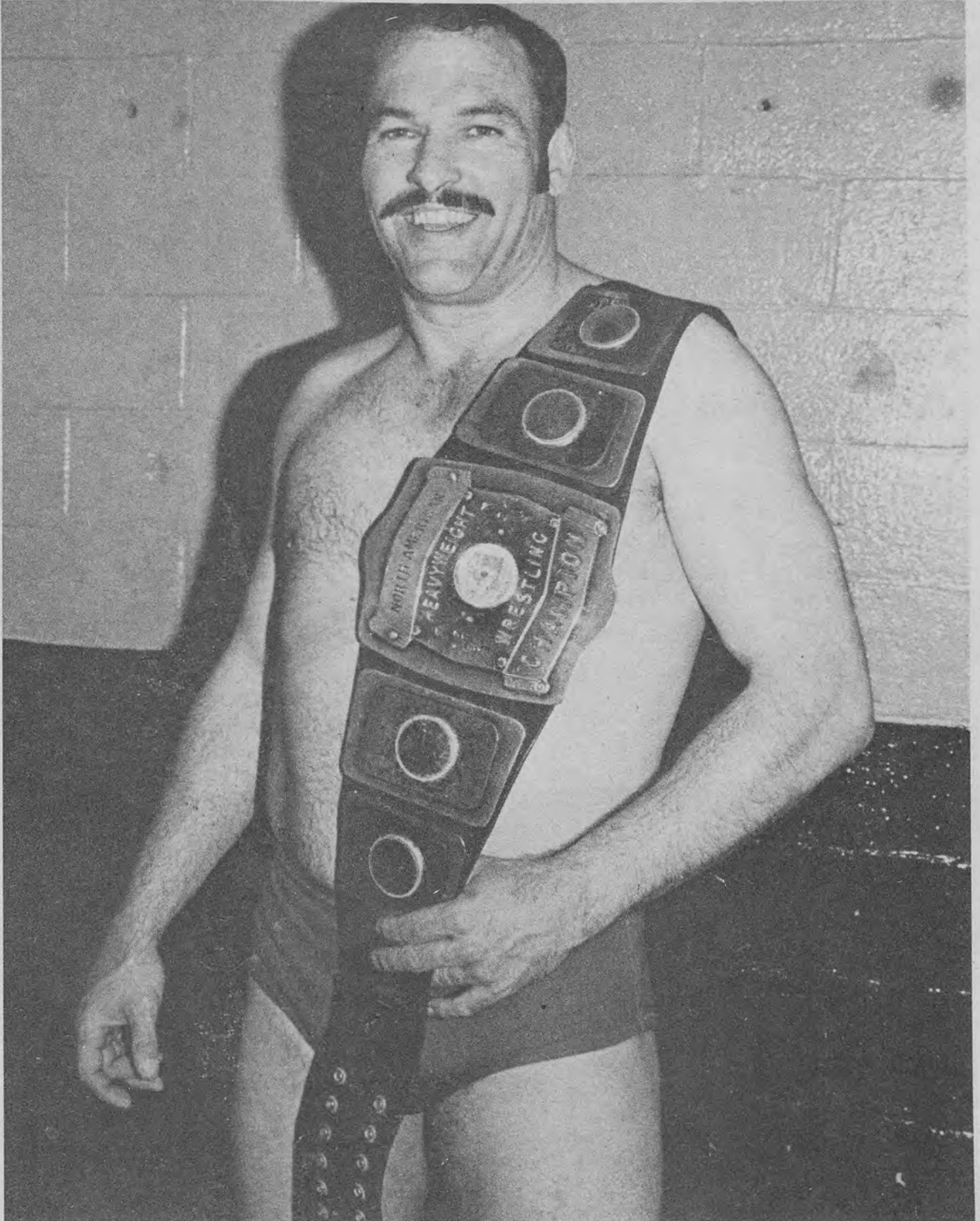
Q. Is there any restriction on the weight limit for the NWA world title?

N. Taylor
Dillion, NC

A. The NWA has a limit of not over 300 pounds for their heavyweight belt.



DEBBIE COMBS



TOMMY GILBERT

LEN "KOJACK" SHELLEY-HE NEVER GIVES UP



Len "Kojack" Shelley of Memphis Tennessee.

By VICKIE LYNN GODDARD

THE hospital was quiet that morning as I made my way down the empty corridor. Room 208 was no different from any other hospital room, except that the occupant had once been an exceptionally strong man. Now he was a broken man, destined never to walk again. A great athlete, with fantastic goals and dreams, but now they were just a memory. He lay twisted and torn, the result of a heated battle with the notorious Kurt Von Steiger.

Injuries are not uncommon in the rough, brutal sport of wrestling, and many have said that injuries alone were wrestling's greatest pitfall.

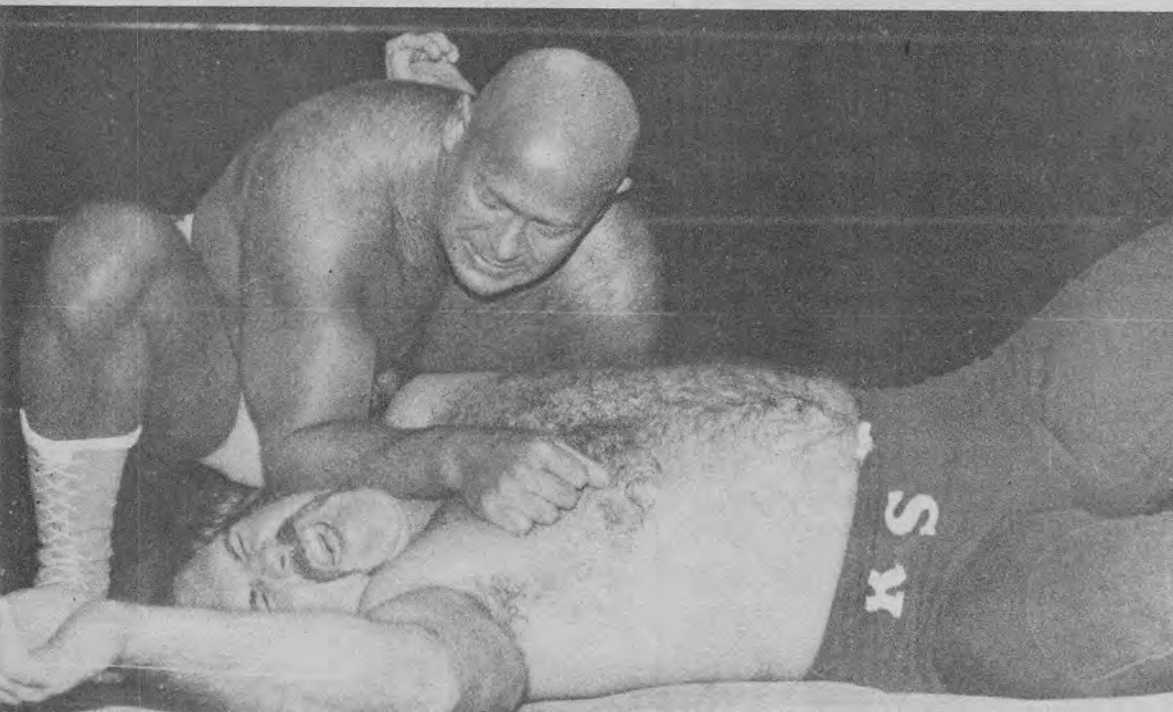
He forced a smile when he saw me, and for a few fleeting moments I almost thought he forgot that his body still wreaked with uncontrollable pain. He seemed to be taking the news well, but then he always was a very accepting person, never arguing or protesting with whatever fate dished out to him.

We talked in general conversation for a long while and then I turned to leave. "Vickie," he beckoned in the loudest voice he could muster. "I'll be out of here soon. And I'm going to wrestle again," he told me with a convincing look.

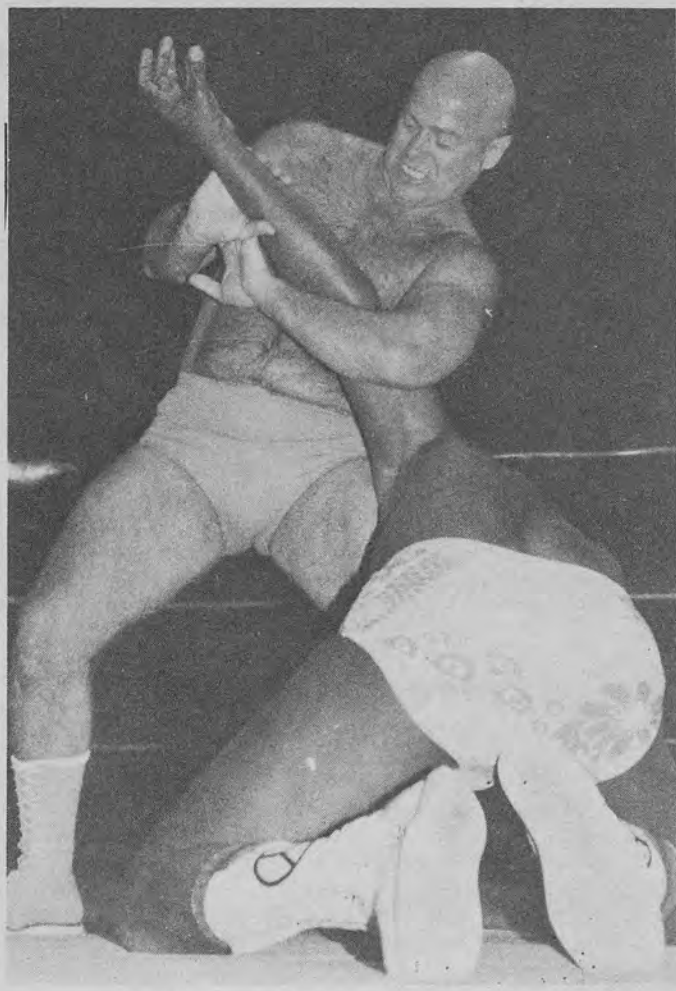
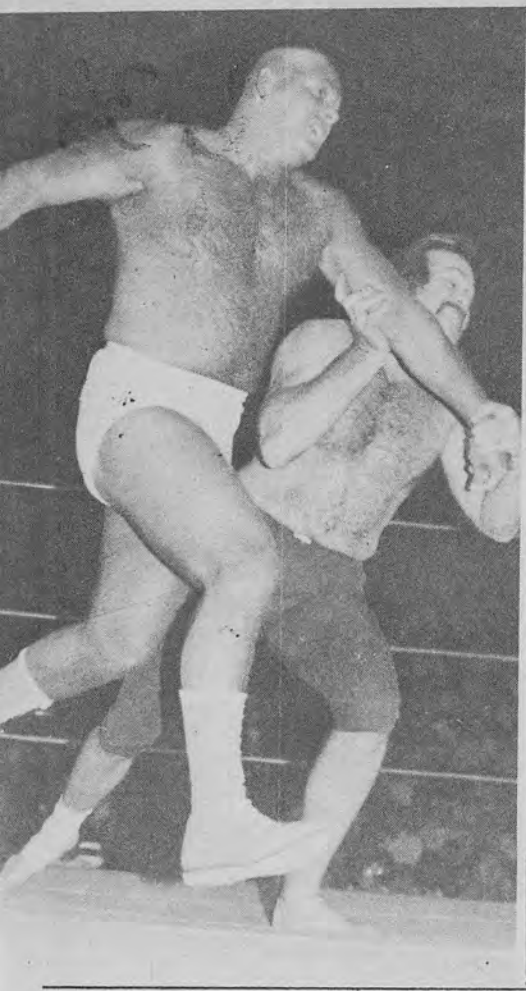
I suppose you could say it shocked me, that a man could make that kind of remark with the protesting and contrary evidence lying all around him. But I never forgot those words, for it was the last time I saw him.

That was four years ago when I was on vacation in Montreal. I flew home to Atlanta that day, and in the past few years, have heard nothing of Len Shelley.

Then recently I had opportunity to go to the matches in Memphis, Tennessee, and I saw him as he climbed between the ropes. Looking better than ever, he was still the same congenial character that he had been before. He was laughing and smiling, and the people loved him. He threw lollipops to the excited children at



Shelley puts a punishing armlock on his opponent. "Kojack" is the favorite of the fans at ringside.



ringside, and chatted with some near-by fans.

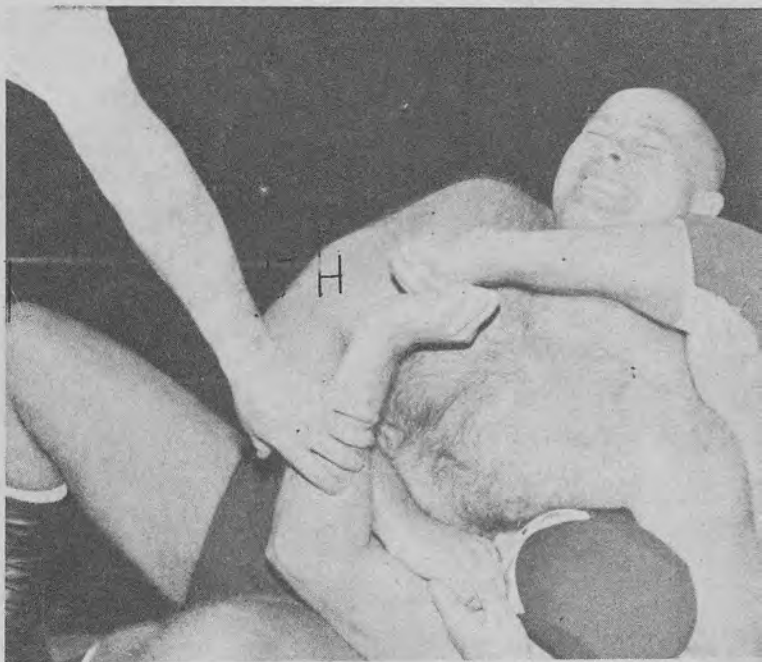
There began a chant which soon vibrated throughout the entire space of the auditorium, and it was apparent they were calling for him. "Kojak?" Yes that was what they were saying. He does possess a striking resemblance to Telly Savalas, the famous crime drama star of national television. And, in a sense, he does play an identical role. They both are seeking to destroy the "bad guys" and allow the ultimate good to prevail.

And speaking of prevalence, Kojak seems to be doing better than anyone at the sport of wrestling. He recently completed a successful tour of Japan, where he competed with the most elite of the profession, and left quite an impression.

On his way home, he tarried in California and soon was wearing one-half of the West Coast Tag Team Championship. His partner was Eric Frolich, who is a capable grappler himself.

Now that he has returned to the South, he has come to grips with the most talented of all athletes. Jimmy Valiant, Joe Leduc, and Ray Stevens, are some that head the list. He not only has competed with them, he has made a lasting mark on their professional careers.

Yes, Len "Kojak" Shelley is a man that is held in high regard in the ranks of this challenging sport. Perhaps because of his easygoing personality, or his strength to try again. But always it is his ability that sets Kojak apart from the rest.



The RING Wrestling OFFICIAL WORLD RATINGS

THE RING WRESTLING OFFICIAL WORLD RATINGS

The Ring Wrestling Ratings are broken down in the following categories; the top ten contenders for the National Wrestling Alliance, American Wrestling Association and the World Wide Wrestling Federation. With the increase of the Junior Heavyweight division we have included the top ten contenders in that weight group. The top twenty girls and tag teams are also rated in each issue. A listing of the top ten international heavyweights is also included.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

CHAMPION: HARLEY RACE

WON TITLE: Feb. 6, 1977

1. Ric Flair
2. Wahoo McDaniel
3. Dick Murdoch
4. Terry Funk
5. Robert Fuller
6. Bob Roop
7. Chavo Guerrero
8. Playboy Buddy Rose
9. Angelo Mosca
10. Paul Orndorff

AMERICAN WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

CHAMPION: NICK BOCKWINKLE

WON TITLE: Nov. 8, 1975

1. Vern Gagne
2. Billy Robinson
3. Bob Orton Jr.
4. Mighty Igor
5. Super Destroyer Mark Two
6. Cecil Dubois
7. Greg Gagne
8. Bulldog Bob Brown
9. The Crusher
10. Rufus Jones

WORLD WIDE WRESTLING FEDERATION

CHAMPION: BOB BACKLUND

WON TITLE: Feb. 20, 1978

1. Ernie Ladd
2. Victor Rivera
3. Dino Bravo
4. Ivan Koloff
5. Superstar Billy Graham
6. Dusty Rhodes
7. Crusher Blackwell
8. Peter Maivia
9. Crazy Luke Graham
10. Tony Garea

JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT RATINGS

CHAMPION: NELSON ROYAL

WON TITLE: July 1, 1978*

1. Tatsumi Fujiami
2. Tommy Gilbert
3. Flying Fred Curry
4. Del Adams
5. Ray Rougeau
6. Mike Pappas
7. Lenny Hurst
8. Jimmy Rougeau
9. Billy Five
10. Marty Jones

*Nelson Royal was awarded the Jr. Heavyweight title by the NWA when Alberto Madril, who won the title on June 25, 1978 was unable to defend the title due to illness. A clause in the contract said that Royal was to have a rematch in thirty days, thus Madril had to relinquish title.

WOMEN

CHAMPION: FABULOUS MOOLAH

WON TITLE: Sept. 26, 1956

1. Evelyn Stevens
2. Joyce Grable
3. Vickie Williams
4. Terri Shane
5. Natasha
6. Sue Brittan
7. Debbie Combs
8. Lei Lan Kai
9. Anne Casey
10. Kitty Adams
11. Suzanne Ferrera
12. Kay Noble
13. Pepper Labianco
14. Donna Lea Ray
15. Sonya Sanchez
16. Tami Love
17. Beverly Shade
18. Irma Gonzales
19. Tomi Aoyama
20. Jean Antone

TAG TEAMS

1. Yukon Lumberjacks
2. Tony Garea and Ray Stevens
3. Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens
4. Jon and Jimmy Valiant
5. Mike Graham and Steve Keirn
6. Bruce Hart and The Dynamite Kid
7. David and Kevin Von Erich
8. Stan Hanson and Ole Anderson
9. Ricky and Robert Gibson
10. Professor Tanaka and Mr. Fuji
11. Superstar and Luke Graham
12. Kurt Von Hess and Seigfried Stanke
13. Dory Jr. & Terry Funk
14. Dennis Condry and Phil Hickerson
15. Mr. X 1 and 2
16. Dr. Jerry and Jerry Jr. Graham
17. El Santos
18. Dick Slater and Mr. Wrestling 2
19. Steve Strong and John Tolos
20. The Spoilers

INTERNATIONAL HEAVYWEIGHT RATINGS

1. Jan Wilkins (South Africa)
2. Antonio Inoki (Japan)
3. Steve Viedor (England)
4. Tiger Dalibar Singh (India)
5. Rusher Kimura (Japan)
6. Otto Wanz (Austria)
7. Steve Rickard (Australia)
8. Kim Ill (Korea)
9. Danny Lynch (England)
10. Roland Bock (Germany)

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SUNSHINE MAT ACTION

By SANDY KREBS

Champions: Florida Heavyweight, The Spoiler; Florida Tag Team, Spoilers 1 & 2; Southern Heavyweight, Dusty Rhodes; U.S. Tag Team-Title, held up by the NWA until a match between Mr. Saito-Mr. Sato and Mike Graham-Steve Keim ends without a controversial finish. TV Title-Jerry Brisco.

Just when it seemed that Killer Karl Kox was going to turn over a new leaf and settle his differences with Dusty Rhodes he reverted back to his old ways. Kox seemed to be having differences with The Spoilers and it appeared that Kox was going to join forces with Terry Funk and Dusty Rhodes to help get rid of The Spoilers, but, on the night that Kox was to team with Rhodes for the first time, he failed to appear and Rhodes was forced to find another partner. The only man he could get on such short notice was Eddie Graham and the Rhodes-Graham team were badly beaten. They demanded a rematch with The Spoilers for the next television show. In their record meeting, when it appeared that The Spoilers were going to be beaten, the referee was knocked out. Spoiler 1 worked on Graham in one corner while Spoiler 2 and Bobby Duncum, who had jumped into the ring, worked on Rhodes. During the melee that ensued, a brainbuster was given to Rhodes by Spoiler 2, then Spoiler 2's mask came off and there was Killer Karl Kox under the mask!! Kox continued to work on Rhodes' leg and injured it.

Due to this action, Kox was suspended until he paid a \$1200 fine. Kox refused to pay and since he couldn't wrestle, began to manage a wrestler named Sir Winston.

A couple of weeks later, during one of Winston's matches, Kox was speaking with TV announcer Gordon Solie and casually mentioned that he had found arag in the dressing room and was going to clean up the area near the announcer's desk. Solie was surprised that Kox would do such a thing then realized that the "rag" was one of Dusty Rhodes' \$10,000 ring robes. Kox wiped the floor with the robe and then started ripping it up. Someone told Rhodes, who was in the shower, what was going on and with soap all over his body, he came out and attacked Kox. Looking at the robe, Rhodes was more than angry and threw the robe into Gordon Solie's face. After he had calmed down to sheer anger, Rhodes returned to the desk and saying he was tired of everything Kox had pulled, whipped out 14 \$100 bills from his wallet to pay Kox's fine, enabling Kox to wrestle.

RON, THE RISING STARR, IS AIMING FOR NWA TITLE

(Continued from page 27)

armdrags and wristlocks. No matter what Robley did to escape, Starr had the answer. He kept battering Robley until Buck managed to grab a side headlock. Ron threw him into the ropes, but was knocked down by Robley. Buck tried it again, but Starr met him with a knee to the face.

Staggered, Robley was quickly on the wrong end of a high knee lift, which dumped him to the mat. As he got up, Starr leaped into the air and applied a jack knife and rolling cradle. Robley was unable to effect an escape and Starr won the match.

Following his thrilling victory over Robley, Starr soon met Sweetan again, this time for Sweetan's T.V. Title. In another great performance, Starr lifted the T.V. Trophy from Sweetan.

Ron's goal now, is a crack at Race.

"I'm ready for Race," declared Starr. "He's a fine champion and an excellent wrestler, but I've earned a chance and I'm ready. You know, I am a former World Jr. Heavyweight Champion and now I'm ready to take the heavyweight title. Come on, Race. I'm ready for you. Will you wrestle me or run like a coward?"

The challenge is there. Will Harley Race accept the dare or will he be a closet champion? His is the next move. Of course, he has his doubts. Anyone who has seen Ron Starr in action can verify that the man from Charlotte is possibly one of the most dangerous contenders for a crack at the crown. Perhaps, if he so chooses, Harley Race may have good reason to hide. Surely any champion would rest easier if he could be sure that Ron Starr was not on his tail.

OKLAHOMA ACTION

By PRICE MILLER

The big news here finds that Eric the Red is being cheered by the fans. Here's how it happened: Newcomer Jimmy Jeenan was wrestling Steven Littlebear on TV when The Brute interfered, and knocked the Indian cold with a chair. Heenan tried to protect Steven by fighting The Brute, but The Brute proved to be too big and strong for him, when all of a sudden the big Dane rushed the ring and clobbered the bald Brute with his bone. Eric later explained that Heenan was his younger brother, and that he would make The Brute pay for what he did to his sibling.

Champs here are Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff, North American and Brass Knucks Cahmp, Bobby Jagers and Jerry Brown, US Tag Champs, The Assassin, Louisiana Champ, and Ray Candy and Steven Littlebear, Louisiana Tag Champs. Orndorff beat Ernie "The King" Ladd for the coveted North American belt, and has defended the belt against Ladd, Brown, Jagers, Assassin, Brute, and Bruiser Brody. However, looming on the young star's horizon is the 285 pound behemoth "Outlaw" Ron Bass.

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Ring Wrestling Camera Catches All The Action

By JOHN AREZZI



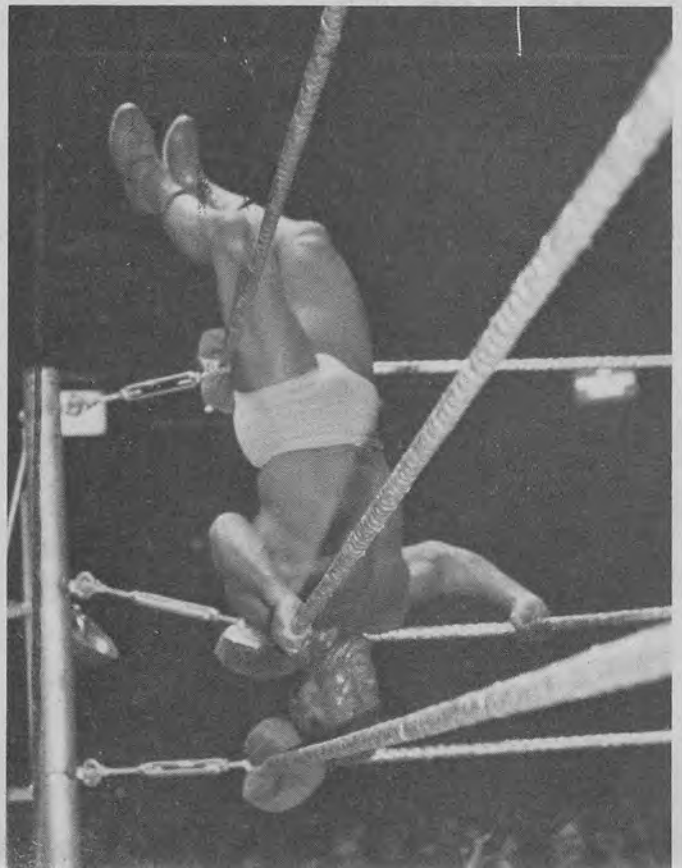
Baron Michele Scicluna found himself sitting "in the lap" of officials at the Boston Garden. It looks as though the Baron is getting a slap on the wrist from official Koogie McFarlane.



The intense expressions of Bob Giegel and Tank Patton, right, tell the entire story. Two grapplers in the heat of battle!



(Left) It appears as if George "The Animal" Steele is looking for a lost possession inside the turnbuckle. The Animal had ripped it open with his teeth just moments earlier. (Above) Ivan Putski hands a tool box back to a TV technician in Philadelphia. Lou Albano had just had it smashed over his head, courtesy of the Polish Powerhouse. (Right) High Chief Peter Maiavi uses his head as he waits for an opponent to come back into the ring after the Samoan star had thrown him out.

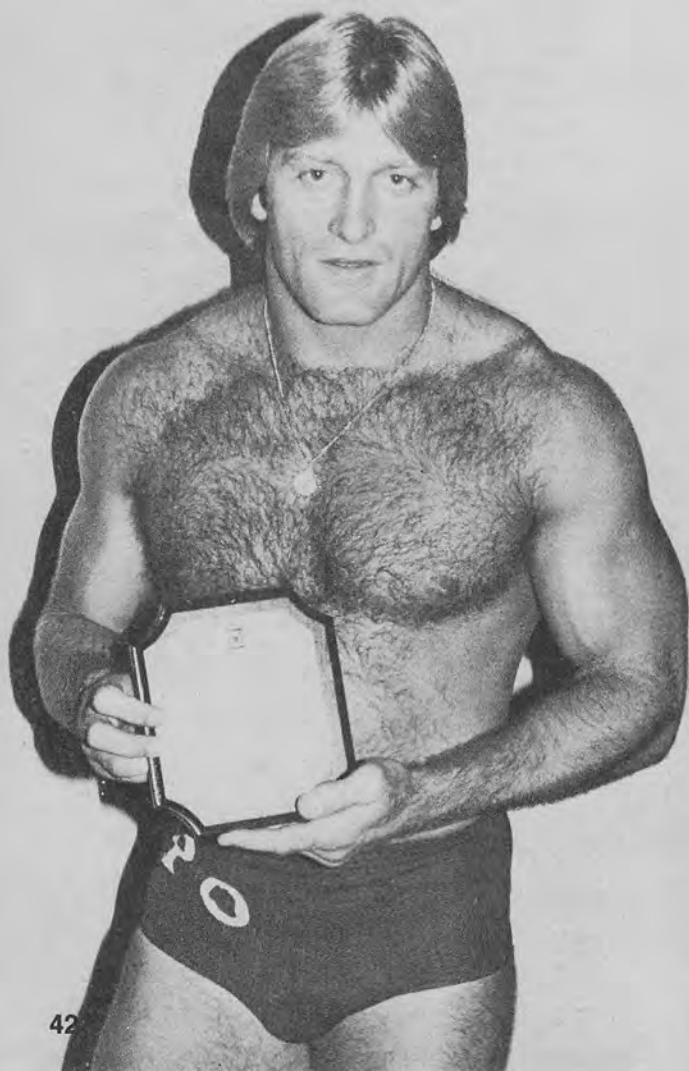


The RING ON AND AROUND THE MAT WORLD

By NAT LOUBET

JUST as I was ready to sit down to start this column, the phone rang. The voice on the other end was recognized immediately. It was an old friend and great wrestler, Mildred Burke. The undefeated former girl champion informed me that she was doing well and that she would be promoting a series of all-girl wrestling cards

Paul Orndoff with his WFIA "Outstanding Wrestler" award. Orndoff is a wrestler to keep your eye on.



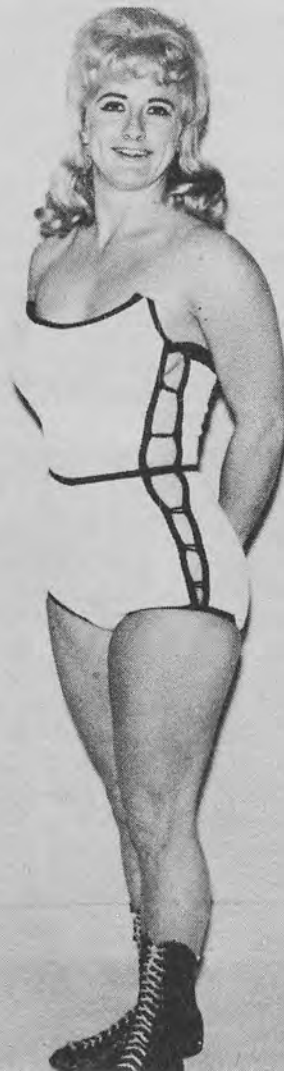
around the West Coast and in Hawaii in the near future. The subject came up about magazines and Mildred brought up the idea which has been in my mind for some time: an all-girl issue of *Ring Wrestling*. Well, after speaking to Mildred, that thought has been working in my mind quite a bit and we are in the planning stages of a *Ring Wrestling* All-Girl Wrestling Annual.

Word just came in from the headquarters of the Wrestling Fans International Association that their twelfth annual (1979) convention would be held on July 21, 22, 23 and 24th in Memphis, Tennessee at the Rivermont Holiday Inn. The WFIA Convention will be hosted by the Jerry Jarrett Wrestling promotions, which holds membership in both the National Wrestling Alliance and the American Wrestling Association. For more detailed information on the four-day wrestling get-together, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to the WFIA at 415 Belview Ave., Normal, Ill. 61761.

Wrestling boom in Norfolk, Virginia. Promoter Joe Murnick drew 10,246 to see Ric Flair vs. Black Jack Mulligan in the main event. The gate grossed \$53,346. Cities with populations like that of Norfolk have been seeing a great increase in attendance around the country and Canada. With local promoters using all forms of media to publicize their cards, the results end up in dollars and cents with good gates.

Eddie Gilbert the son of wrestler Tommy Gilbert, has become a very talented writer and photographer. Eddie is making his debut as a feature writer for *Ring Wrestling* with an article on Jerry "The King" Lawler. Eddie will continue to do feature stories for us. Getting to Papa Gilbert, Tommy has been wrestling in the Southern states, and is hot on the trail of Nelson Royal for the NWA junior heavyweight belt. Tommy and Lou Thesz have had some mighty hectic matches since the six-time world champion returned from a very successful campaign in Mexico.

Evelyn Stevens won and lost the women's championship within a span of three days. She is looking forward to a rubber match with the Fabulous Moolah.



Fans in the WWF were shocked over the recent change in Peter Maivia. The switch came after a tag-team match with Maivia and Bob Backlund vs Spiros Arion and Baron Scicluna. The match went to a no-contest and, for some reason or other, Maivia had words with Arnie Skoaland, the manager of Bob Backlund. What took place was a complete shock as the Prince started to fight with the Golden Boy. Arion and Scicluna came in and assisted, with Fred Blassie on the chaos. Backlund and Maivia have parted ways now and it seems that Backlund would like nothing better than to meet his former friend and partner in the ring.

Bruno Sammartino was seen on TV recently in different roles. The most widely known one is as the co-host commentator for the World Wide Wrestling Federation TV tapes. The other one is Bruno in the Pittsburgh area TV screens doing an Iron City Beer Commercial. Wonder if they will issue a Bruno Beer Can.

Two of Bruno's toughest opponents, Buddy Rogers and Killer Kowalski, were recently seen in a famous eatery in the Big Apple. Could it be that these former world champions and one-time tag team partners are thinking of joining forces again? When approached with this, neither wrestler would comment. Kowalski, did say that time will tell.

Fred Curry Jr., son of Wild Bull Curry, is really on the move in the mid west. The high flying Fred Jr. is really making a name for himself with plans to go on a nationwide tour in the near future. Curry, Jr. has been packing the fans in all around as he is on top of the bills for World Championship Wrestling promotions out of Columbus, Ohio. He and his famous dad have teamed under the WCW banner a number of times and have had a running feud with another father and son duo, Dr. Jerry and Jerry, Jr. Graham.

Johnny Valentine doing double duty down Texas way as a TV commentator and manager for his youngest brother, Dale. . . . The American Dream is active in various United Way projects in Tampa when he is home. . . . Did you know that the Wizard is a keen American History buff? . . . Since 1948, the National Wrestling Alliance has been the main head of wrestling in North America and Canada. At the convention in Reno, Nevada the first European promoter joined the organization, Edmund Schober of Hanover, West Germany. . . . Jimmy Rougeau, the youngest of the Rougeau clan, doing well in Calgary while brother Ray is in Ontario. . . . Chris Tolos active in the Carolinas after many years away.

Since our last issue, another member of the Hart family has joined the ranks of professional wrestlers. Bret Hart made his debut

on September 1st, 1978, in Calgary, when he defeated Jay "The Alaskan" York via disq. Stu Hart is quite proud of his young son and, with three other sons in wrestling, the term "First Family of Wrestling" now applies to the Hart clan.

A new club over in California is headed by Kurt Brown. The club is called Pacific Coast Wrestling. For sixty cents and a first class stamp you get the lowdown on the mat action out there. Kurt's address is: 916 W. Fern Dr., Fullerton, Ca. 92633. Another club brought to my attention is the one in honor of Johnny Rodz headed by Tom Walsh of 236 Hillside Ave., Livingston, N.J. 07-039. Tom has a good bulletin with lots of news about Johnny. Send for a copy of his bulletin for 60¢ and a stamped self addressed envelope.

Big news from Dallas, Texas. The Fabulous Moolah lost her title to Evelyn Stevens on October 8th. On October 10th, she regained the title in a rematch in Ft. Worth. This news just came in as we went to press. Ms. Stevens wants a rubber match with Moolah and many fans in Texas think that Evelyn can do it again.

Larry Sharpe is a big man in Hawaii at this writing. Speaking of Hawaii, we were recently sent a program from the island state. It was interesting to note that Mid-Pacific Promotions is sanctioned by both the American Wrestling Association and the National Wrestling Alliance. Promoter Ed Francis is securing talent from both top leagues.

Two newcomers in wrestling to keep an eye on are Jim Shields and Herb Calvert. Both presently wrestling in Oklahoma and looking good. . . . Abdullah The Butcher seeing action in Puerto Rico and Japan in recent months. . . . Supertar Billy Graham getting offers from Sam Muchnick of St. Louis to return to the Mond City. Jesse Ventura is out that way. It would be interesting if those two were to team. . . . Paul Orndorff is a wrestler to keep in mind when you talk about future champions. . . . Top brother duo in wrestling has to be the Gibson boys from Pensacola, Florida.

Due to an injury suffered while playing a charity baseball game for the Jerry Lewis drive for muscular dystrophy, wrestler Jim Brunzell has been out of action. The president of the AWA withdrew the championship belts from the duo of Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell and awarded the tag team belts to Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson. Brunzell only had to say that as soon as his doctor gives him the nod to go back to wrestling, he and Greg will regain the tag team championship.

That about wraps it up for this issue. See you with more wrestling highlights with our next edition of *Ring Wrestling*.

KEYSTONE, BUCKEYE, AND MOUNTAIN STATE ACTION

By HENRY KLIMKOWSKI

The World-Wide Wrestling Federation is currently facing stiff opposition in the Tri-State Area from two brand new independent promotions: the Continental Wrestling Congress (C.W.C.) in Eastern Ohio and the West Virginia Panhandle, and the Mountain State Wrestling Association in Northern West Virginia.

FAIRMONT, W. VA. — The Continental Wrestling Congress presented a \$1,000 16-Man over-the-top-rope Battle Royal at the Marion County Armory. Israeli champion, Dov Abrams, and Wild Buck Slattery emerged as the two finalists. Slattery cornered Dov against the ropes and tried to connect with a roundhouse-haymaker. When Abrams ducked the duke, Wild Buck's momentum sent him flying over the top rope to give Dov the loot after 16:32. Order of Elimination: 1) Invader #2, 2) Rossetti, 3) Invader #1, 4) Hangman, 5) Howard, 6) Red Cloud, 7) McKay, 8) George II, 9) G. Espada, 10) McShane, 11) Diabolico, 12) J. Espada, 13) Plowboy, 14) Bobby Fulton, 15) Slattery, WINNER: Abrams.

Wild Buck Slattery and Handsome Pete McKay faced The Espada Brothers, Jose and George, in an "elimination" match for the vacant C.W.C. world's tag-team laurels. George's flying-bodypress flattened Slattery for an opening pinfall at 6:08, but Wild Buck recovered to elbow-drop Jose for the equalizing cover in 4:58. During a third-fall free-for-all in which George and McKay were bloodied, ref Kent Clarke was floored several times necessitating a "no contest" verdict after 9:18.

Chief Don Red Cloud, Brady Howard, and Smilin' Jimmy Watson fell victim to the Dizzy McShane-El Diabolico-Gorgeous George II trio in a big six-man tag-team riot. Diabolico used a backbreaker to pin Howard at 10:10, but Brady's headbutts later rendered Diabolico bloody for a retaliatory pin after 4:42. McShane's kneedrops to the throat wiped out Watson for the clinching press after ten minutes.

Also, C.W.C. world's champion Dick "The Bulldog" Brower used a series of bodyslams and elbow-drops to wipe out Rocky Rossetti for a "non-title" victory pin after six minutes. The Plowboy's slams enabled him to pin Invaders #1 and #2 simultaneously after 4:03 in a "handicap" bout. Ladies action saw Kim Liwana "camel-clutch" L'il Cannonball into submission at 8:22. Dov Abrams' Israeli sleeper-hold rendered The Hangman "hors de combat" after 6:21.

CANTON, OHIO — The Sheik and Bulldog Don Kent, both top contenders for the vacant N.W.A. United States title, crossed paths in promoter Bud Harris' Memorial Auditorium main-event. Because the two had both been counted out of the ring in their previous encounter, it was ruled an immediate disqualification should a grappler go to the arena floor for any reason. Sheik continually stabbed Don with a pencil, but Bulldog used his "dog collar" to pound the Arab into a bloody mess. After twenty-six minutes of trying to oust one another from the ring, the two became entangled and tumbled to ringside together. Although they appeared to hit the floor simultaneously, ref Pat Chene ruled that Sheik touched down first and declared Kent the winner!!!

Boby Brazil and Capt. Ed George defeated Nelson Royal and Stan "The Man" Kayode George with a heart-blow at 15:15. Stasiak and Royal were disqualified.

Plus: Masked Superstar (Dick Steinborn) locked Don Anderson into a small-package cradle at 6:51. Gargaro Al Costello back-suplexed Sam Schell and neckbridged him into a cradle at the 22-minute mark.

CLARKSBURG, PA. — The Mountain State Wrestling Association presented U.S. champion Igor Koloff facing Bill Berger in a Russian Chain Match main-event at Nathan Goff Armory. The two were each joined at the wrist by one end of a 15-foot steel chain in this no time limit, no disqualification joust. Victory could be achieved only by decking one's opponent for an uninterrupted count of ten. While the bloodied twosome battled at ringside, Igor's manager Zoltan the Great crashed a steel chair over Berger's skull. Because of the no-DQ rule, ref Hank Hudson was forced to count Berger out of the ring after 9:20.

The forehead of The North American Madman, B.B. Coleman, split open like a melon as a result of Chief Black Eagle's facefall! Madman later dodged Black Eagle's encores shoulder-broke try with the result that the Indian tumbled to ringside. When Coleman continually blocked the Chief's re-

entry attempts, ref Hudson halted the lasso with no official verdict after 16:20.

Zoltan the Great defended his newly-acquired world's light-weight laurels against Cuba's Fidel Castro! The bout was marred by the constant interference of Zoltan's sidekick, The Playboy of Hollywood. Ref Hudson eventually grabbed Playboy by his collar and personally escorted him back to the dressing room. In the meantime, Zoltan was free to strangle Fidel into dreamland with a rope. The ref returned to find Zoltan covering Castro for the pin at 11:32.

The Destructors, at a combined weight of 630 pounds, battled Bobby Fulton and 308-pound Mr. Mysterious in a pier-six brawl. After three consecutive falls of "no contest" decisions due to continual free-for-all as well as interference from Destructors' manager Hit-Man Jack, referee Hungry Jack halted the scrap after 13:24.

In the opener, Wild Buck Slattery threw Bobby Fulton head-first into a ringpost with the result that Fulton was counted out of the ring after 6:39.

PITTSBURGH, PA. — W.W.W.F. champion Bob Backlund faced his predecessor, Superstar Billy Graham, at the Civic Arena. Superstar rammed Bob's head twice into an iron ringpost with running starts to split the champ's head wide-open. Backlund tried to repay Graham's abuse, but ref Buckley Palermo intervened and awarded Superstar a TKO victory at 10:40. However, Backlund retained the W.W.W.F. title despite being defeated.

WHEELING, W.VA. — Continental Wrestling Congress world's champion Dick "The Bulldog" Brower put his belt up for grabs against the man with the world's strongest neck (24"). Chuck "The Plowboy" Berger! Bulldog brought the timekeeper's bell into the ring, but Plowboy snatched the gong and crashed it over Dick's cranium. Brower's head split wide-open and, seconds later, one of the blood-blinded Bulldog's fists sent ref Bruce Baker flying from the ring. Plowboy slung Dick into the ropes and kayoed him on the rebound with his "sledgehammer" blow across the chest. Berger tried for a cover, but the arbiter was still out cold. Brower revived and joined his manager, The Great Scott, in an assault upon Plowboy, prompting Aribba Luis Martinez to come in to even the odds. Ref Baker then awakened and, seeing Martinez in the ring, unjustly disqualified Plowboy for outside interference after 10:35.



THROUGHOUT the years, there have been many talented wrestlers who were known for being "wild" on the mat. Such wrestlers would include the Sheik, Abdullah the Butcher, The Great Mephisto, and of course the great Pampero Firpo.

All of those wrestlers break the rules, although Firpo's attitude seems to have changed drastically throughout the last few years. Now, he enters the ring prepared for any eventuality and if his opponent chooses to follow the rules, then fine—that's the way he likes it. However, if his opponent wants to break rules, Firpo does too because, as he put it, he invented breaking the rules!

Seeing this man in action is unbelievable. He is shorter than most wrestlers go, standing only about 5'9", but he is as solid and strong as a bull, weighing 242 pounds on a very stocky, muscular chest with large, solid arms. He boasts of his long, curly thick black hair and black beard and you can hear him loud and clear the moment he enters the ring:

“OOOOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAH!” he yells.

There was a time, a few years ago, when Firpo was booed and jeered drastically the moment he entered the ring. He was a hated wrestler and the fans had a right to hate him. He was dirty, nasty, unkind, and he broke every rule, damaging and injuring the fans' favorites night after night in major arenas throughout the country.

How does Firpo feel about the days of vesteryear?

"Ohhh, I remember those days well," he recalled, during a recent interview for *The Ring Wrestling*. "I was very successful in those days but I am now, too. All I cared about then was breaking the rules and injuring opponents. I just wanted to win my match and make my money as much as I could. Victory meant money and I loved both.

"I realized that I was being booed every night and that everyone hated me. I would see my pictures in sports sections of various

(Above) Former world heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer and wrestler Pampero Firpo in the 1950s, when Max refereed many wrestling matches. (Below) Firpo and another great heavyweight boxing king, Jack Dempsey. Jack knocked out boxer Luis Angel Firpo in the second round to retain his title at the Polo Grounds in New York on September 14, 1923.



PAMPERO FIRPO: THE WILD BULL OF THE PAMPAS

newspapers and all they would do was downgrade me, knocking my ability and claiming that I couldn't win my matches if I tried following the rules.

"So, one night out of the clear blue sky I decided I would try and follow the rules and I announced this during a television interview on *BIG TIME WRESTLING*, seen weekly on color television. The fans were skeptical of me and I admit they had a right to be. After all, I had injured many of their favorite wrestlers and the fans as well as my opponents felt it was a trap. I proved it and within a few weeks the fans had accepted me completely and I was now one of their favorites!

"You know, it was a darned good feeling shaking hands and signing autographs and being loved and admired for a change. I really enjoyed the switch and the fans loved me."

They sure did. Each night thousands of fans would turn out to see Firpo in action and they would bring signs and posters for Firpo and they were behind him throughout his entire match. Firpo loved it!

Pampero then decided he would try and get rid of many of the wrongdoers of the



Firpo is a tremendous favorite in Japan and there are always hundreds of loyal fans to greet him when he arrives at the airport in Tokyo.

Firpo with his pet cougar. Pampero's hectic wrestling schedule leaves him little time for any outside activities.



mat world, those who constantly break the rules and who insist wrestling isn't a sport but merely a street-fight. Firpo took on such roughnecks as Bob Roop, Alexis Smirnoff, The Great Goliath, Black Gordman, Playboy Buddy Rose and others. All of these wrestlers would have done anything to break Firpo's arm or leg but they never succeeded.

Firpo remembers the old days when he tangled with Blond Bomber Ray Stevens for the United States heavyweight championship and the two battled during two wild matches with Stevens defending his crown. He also had a few battles with Samoan chief Peter Maivia in San Francisco and these matches were truly classics.

Firpo is an extremely intelligent man who speaks four languages fluently. He has traveled all over the world and has defeated the best of each country.

Whenever Firpo appears in Japan he is greeted by celebrities and important politicians when he arrives at the airport in Tokyo. There are always hundreds of loyal fans there to greet him. Anywhere he wrestles fans turn out in the thousands to see this great wrestler in action.

"I have wrestled in Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the far east and all over the United States. I am both loved and hated where ever I appear. Many fans see me for the first time and take an immediate disliking to me because of my long hair and beard. After they see me in action and realize the way I wrestle is good, they like me and I become one of their favorite wrestlers.

"I love traveling all over the world. To travel is to educate yourself and education in our country today is important, believe me. I taught myself most of the things I know. My professors at the University of California, where I attended college, were very helpful."

Wrestling gives Pampero everything he could possibly want in a career. It gives him a chance to travel and see the world while at the same time meeting wonderful people of all walks of life; it gives him lots of money; a chance to be properly exercised and to stay in top shape; and he is wrestling, something he loves more than anything else in the world.

"I love wrestling," Firpo announced. "It gives me everything I could want. I thank God each night for my health and success and I pray that it remains. When I am in the ring, nothing else in the world matters except for my match and the time right then and there. The past and the future are not ex-istant in my mind when I am in the ring wrestling. All I care about are my skills and my victory over the challenger.

"Believe me," he continued, "it's a great feeling hearing the fans out there cheering for me, them being behind me all the way. It helps me a lot and I attribute some of my success in the ring to the wonderful fans who always back me up. They are wonderful people and I hope they are reading this now."

Firpo has little time for any hobbies, con-

The "Wild Bull of the Pampas" works over his opponent in a Tokyo match. Firpo is an adept scientific wrestler.



Another scene in Tokyo. As long as his opponent wrestles cleanly, Firpo does the same. If someone breaks the rules, however, Pampero will do likewise.



sidering his hectic wrestling schedule. If he is not in the ring wrestling he is in the gym working out or on a plane flying to the next town. This leaves him with little time for any extra activities such as camping, swimming, sunbathing or running.

One mistake many wrestlers make is when they grab Firpo's long hair and attempt to pull it. Firpo's hair is so strong—a symbol

of good health—that he merely tosses his head and his opponent winds up being thrown across the ring!

Pampero is as strong as a bull and that is why he is called the Wild Bull of the Pampas. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Firpo yells like the lion and wrestles with the success and ability of a long time world

(Continued on page 62)



Jackie Turpin is on the receiving end of punishment from former British lightweight champion Zoltan Boscik.



World lightweight champion Johnny Saint waves to his fans.



(Above) The Amazing "Kung Fu" hammers British heavy middleweight champion Mark Rocco on the corner post. (Below) "Big Daddy" wipes his feet on "Detroit" Donovan of the U.S.A.

BRITISH MAT UPDATE

By EVAN R. TREHARNE

WRESTLING fans in Port Talbot had a field day when Dale Martin Promotions presented wrestling at the Afon Lido. The star studded bill drew a large crowd, and we hope this is just the beginning of something good for Wales.

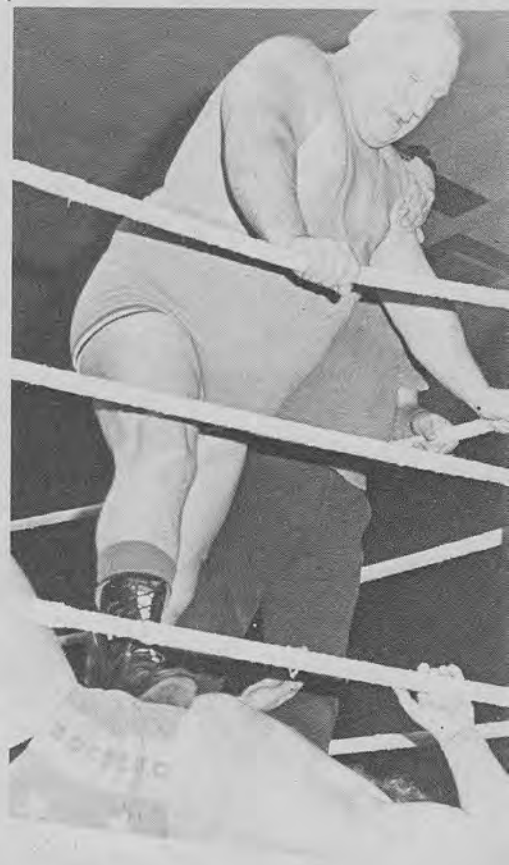
When Steve Logan and Billy Torontos went into action the crowd really enjoyed themselves. Logan was surly and Torontos was up to his usual comic tricks. Logan was twice warned for punching low, but in fact it was Torontos who was the culprit, punching, then going down claiming a foul and getting away with it each time. In the early part of the bout, Torontos was more often on my lap than in the ring. Amid much laughter,

Torontos, having equalized in round four, won the match when a very frustrated Logan was disqualified.

Steven Grey the British lightweight champion, fought a hard and fast match with Clive Myers, 'Iron Fist.' Great wrestling at high speed, and during one great tangle, referee Max Ward tried to unravel the men. When lifting one foot over another, Myers yelled out, "The black one is mine!" The bout ended in a one-one draw, and although an extra round was decided upon, the result remained the same.

Mal Sanders the twenty-year-old new European middleweight champion, is well in the news these days, following his defeat of

(Continued on page 59)



FAN CLUB NEWS

By TOM BURKE

THE Wrestling Fan Club scene has had a sudden burst of enthusiasm from all sections of the country and across the borders of the United States. The reasons are many but one thing that this columnist noticed at the eleventh annual convention of the Wrestling Fans International Association is that fans want to keep in the know about their favorites and the best way is to support wrestling fan clubs. Fan clubs are as much a part of wrestling as airplane spins. The people that run fan clubs are sincere fans that are out to do a service for their honorary or the sport in general. This column is their way of advertising their clubs with comments by this columnist.

My good friend Mike Omansky has come through once again with a super issue of *Rasslin Wonders*. His recent 1978-79 Annual was a 28-page book, plus a great color cover front and back. It includes such items as an update on Bruno Sammartino, a feature article on Dr. Jerry Graham, a Photo Gallery, an interview with Dave O'Hannon, a gossip page, a nostalgia feature on Buddy Rogers and Johnny Barend, and much more. This is a gem that should be in every wrestling fan's library. You can get a copy of *Rasslin Wonders* for only \$2.50. Order yours from Mike at the following address: PO Box 103, Lake Hiawatha, New Jersey 07034.

Wrestling '79 is the monthly bulletin that is published by Joseph Shedlock of P.O. Box 67, Greensburg, Pa. 15601. This monthly bulletin is printed on both sides of 8 x 14 paper and is usually eight pages in length. Wrestling results from around the U.S. and Canada are featured along with a photostat photo page and gossip column. Joe breaks down the results in a geographic area which is good since it gives one a speedy way to find results that they are interested in. Ratings are also a regular part of the monthly bulletin, which sells for only \$1.00 a month.

Dropkick #5 was a high flying success in my opinion. Editor Jeff Zinger continues to do a great job as the man with the pen. Eight pages of current news and comments along with a cover was well done issue #5. *Dropkick* always gives its reader the best in coverage for the Toronto area, and in other areas, too. A copy of *Dropkick* is only 50¢ a copy. Subscription rate is \$2.00 for four issues. Jeff's address is: 541 Devonshire Ave., Woodstock, Ontario, Canada N4S 5P9.

Felicia Worthington of 274 Grand Blvd., Emerson, New Jersey 07630 has recently sent me a copy of a signed permission slip to start a fan club for Ivan Putski. At the present time I have not seen any of the club material. Another permission slip was sent to me from Greg Morsorjak of 539 Dorothy Ave., Johnstown, Pa. 15906. Greg has started a club for Ric Flair. As in the case of the Putski Fan Club, the club for Ric Flair has not sent me any of their material yet. Greg is a veteran fan club president and will no doubt have some excellent material. I would suggest that any interested readers contact Felicia and Greg by sending them a letter with a stamped self addressed envelope for complete details on their clubs.

Jim Knight of 20 Fairfield Road, London N8, England sent me a very nice letter and a copy of his bulletin in honor of British wrestler Bruce Malory. The copy of the bulletin that Jim sent was a news filled journal on Bruce Malory. If you would like to find out more about this club, I suggest that you send Jim an air letter. Jim would also like to hear from wrestling fans from the States and Canada who would like to be correspondents.

Michael Rand sent me a copy of his bulletin, entitled *Florida Wrestling, Inc.* The debut issue contained four pages plus a cover. The bulletin consisted of wrestling news, results, an editorial, and

photostats of clippings from the Sunshine state. A copy of the bulletin is 60¢ plus a stamped self addressed envelope.

I was sad to learn that Carol Peddycoart has given up her club for Larry Hennig. Another club that has gone to the wayside is the Stan Hansen club formerly headed by Tim Norwood.

All Girl Wrestling #5 is available from Global Wrestling, 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Mass. 01108. Issue #5 contains the regular features on girl wrestling as well as a number of special features that are not found elsewhere. I would suggest that you send in your \$1.50, plus a stamped self addressed envelope, as soon as possible, while copies of *All Girl Wrestling* still last. *All Girl Wrestling Nostalgia Sheet #4* is also available now. This is the fourth in a series that features girl wrestling stars of yesterday. The *All Girl Wrestling Nostalgia Sheet* is available for only 50¢ plus a stamped self addressed envelope.

The Billy Francis Fan Club was voted the number one fan club for 1978 by the Wrestling Fans International Convention at their eleventh annual convention in Knoxville, Tennessee this past August. Every issue of their bulletin is super. Always filled with news, comments, features and lots more on their honorary and other wrestling personalities. A single copy of this award winner is only 75¢. Membership is only \$4.00 a year, which include four bulletins, an 8 x 10 of Billy Francis, and a membership card. This club is the joint effort of Joan McGuire and her son, Raymond. Their address is: 201-15 Reay Cres., Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2K 3X6.

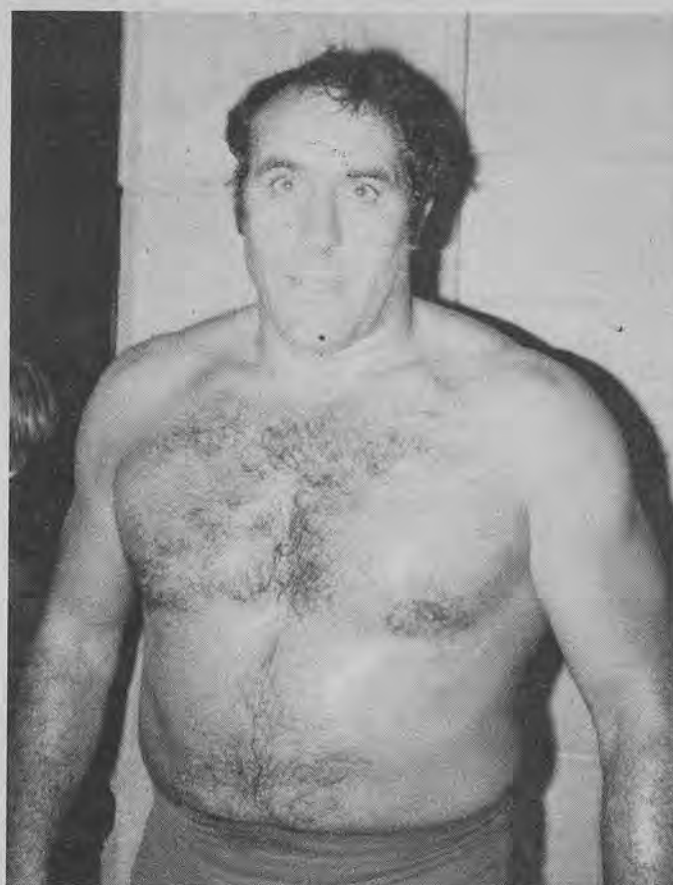
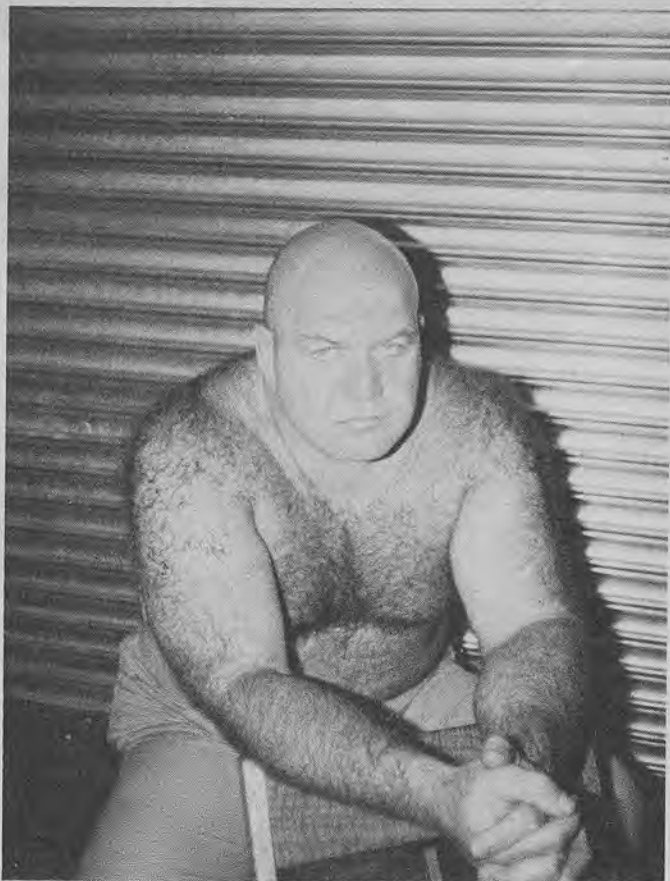
The first issue of the Johnny Rodz Fan Club bulletin was sent to me by Tom Walsh, 236 Hillside Ave., Livingston, NJ 07039. The first edition of the bulletin, entitled *Mr. Unpredictable*, sells for \$1.00. The bulletin is filled with thirteen photostat pages of features and interviews on Johnny Rodz as well as on other WWWF wrestling personalities. I really enjoyed the interview done by the fan club president with Johnny Rodz. This club has the prospects of becoming a top class one in the future.

The Gary Michael Capetta Fan Club has a change of address. The new address is: P.O. Box 1717, Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey 08742. The club will continue to edit its bulletin, *The Magical Microphone*. Enclosed a stamped self addressed envelope for more details.

Fellow *Ring Wrestling* writer Roger Deem has started a fan club in honor of a city. The club is the St. Louis Wrestling Fan Club. Roger has obtained the permission to start the club from the St. Louis Wrestling office. A sample bulletin is only 75¢ plus two first class stamps or \$1.00 postpaid. Roger's address is: 140 East Pennsylvania, Jacksonville, Illinois 62650.

AWA Wrestling is given a lot of publicity through the efforts of Karen Beckman of 2924 North 44 Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53210. Miss Beckman publishes a bulletin that is over twenty pages thick and filled with news, results and comments on the wrestling action in the American Wrestling Association Land. Yearly membership is only \$3.00 a year. A copy of this bulletin is 75¢ plus two first class stamps.

Ken Patera has an excellent club under the direction of Eleanore Finley and Georgiann Makropoulos. Bulletin #4 contained a photostat cover picture of Ken Patera. Over twenty-five pages filled issue number four. A lot of news, features, results, a letter from Ken Patera, and lots more made up the super bulletin. A copy of the bulletin is only \$1.00 plus 39¢ for postage. The address for the International Ken Patera Fan Club is 23-44 30th Dr., Astoria, New York 11102.



(Left) George "The Animal" Steele. (Right) Dominic DeNucci. These and other photos and self prints of all your favorite wrestlers are available from Lawrence James, 2716 Mill Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11234. Readers are invited to send for a free list.

Within The Squared Ring is a gem put out by Kathy Dowd. Miss Dowd publishes a very informative monthly bulletin that is always on top of the wrestling scene in Denver and elsewhere. A copy of this bulletin is only 50¢ plus a first class stamp. The address for the club is: 1368 Lafayette #9, Denver, Colorado 80218.

Professional wrestling's longest running monthly newsletter is *Global Wrestling News Service*, published by Global Wrestling. Global Wrestling News Service recently celebrated their third year as the most well read wrestling monthly newsletter around. Each month, Global Wrestling presents up to the minute wrestling results and news. Feature clips, nostalgia, news, pictures, and lots more are included with each issue of *Global Wrestling News Service*. A recent copy of their bulletin contained results from such wrestling hot spots as: Madison Square Garden in New York City, St. Paul, Miami, Phoenix, Toronto, San Francisco, Montreal, Honolulu, Japan, England, New Zealand, there are also monthly features. A must for every sincere wrestling fan is *Global Wrestling News Service*. Send 35¢, plus a stamped self addressed envelope, to Global Wrestling, 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Mass. 01108.

Pete Lederberg sent me a signed permission slip from Steve Keirn to start a fan club in his honor. More information is available by writing to Pete at 3285 Foxcroft Rd., Miramar, Florida 33025.

I am always getting letters from fans asking me where can they purchase photos of their favorite stars. Well, there are many fine photographers that offer excellent pictures for sale. Listed below are a number of them that I hope you will write and get their list. Remember to send a stamped self addressed envelope.

Jim Cornette of 12800 Urton Lane, Middletown, Ky. 40243 has some excellent posed pictures of wrestling stars from Tennessee and Kentucky. A shot of Ricky Gibson is shown with this column as a sample of his work.

Dominick Marcello of 326 Upland Ave., Yonkers, New York

10703 sent me his action shots taken in and around the New York area.

Marc Glaser sent me some samples of his action and posed shots from Florida. His address is 10281 W. Bar Harbor Drive, Miami, Fla. 33154.

Lawrence James offers both WWF and independent action and posed shots. A list is available by writing to Lawrence at 2716 Mill Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11234.

Don Freedom Freedman will send you three pictures from his impressive list of wrestling stars for only a buck and a first class stamp. Don's address is: 66 Village Green, Williamsville, NY 14-221.

Now to some wrestling fan services.

My good buddy, Jeff Walton of the Hollywood Wrestling Office has a special offer of a subscription of five souvenir wrestling programs for only \$3.00. Jeff also has a set of 10 5 × 7 photos for \$10.00. The set includes Hector Guerrero, Bob Backlund, Freddie Blassie, Bruno Sammartino, Mil Mascaras, Bobo Brazil, Chavo Guerrero and others. Get on the band wagon and send your offer to Jeff at PO Box 64345, Los Angeles, Ca. 90064. Tell him Ring Wrestling sent you.

The good people at Pro Wrestling Services have informed me that they have a great number of new items including some real collector material from the IWA promotions. I suggest that you drop a line to PWS and a stamped self addressed envelope for their sales sheet. The address is: 16070 Sherfield Rd., Southfield, Mich. 48075.

Scott Teal is the editor and publisher of a fine wrestling program called Slam-O-Gram. This is available for 35¢ and a stamped self addressed envelope. This program is for the Gulas territory in the South. Address: 1000 Thompson Pl., Apt C-19, Nashville, Tenn. 37217.

(Continued on page 64)



The Sheik prays to Allah. Note the snakes. The Sheik may be religious, but he's also one of the dirtiest wrestlers in the business—possibly the dirtiest.



Blood dripping from his forehead, The Sheik weakens Harley with a side headlock.

By KEVIN KRON

NWA World Champion Harley Race, recently entered the midwest to defend his title against the vicious Sheik. If it hadn't been for some quick thinking on the part of Harley Race, the NWA would have crowned a new champion.

On this particular night, the spotlight belonged completely to the Sheik. He controlled the action just as his manager had predicted.

"Harley Race's reign as champion will crumble to the ground tonight," insisted Eddie Creachman, the Sheik's out-spoken manager. "The Sheik has been training day and night for this bout. Just take a good look at him. Two hundred and forty two pounds of solid muscle."

"Since regaining the championship from Terry Funk, I've traveled around the world defending my title against only the top challengers," remarked Harley. "Tonight I step into the ring against another top challenger, the Sheik. I realize the Sheik has been known to get quite rough during his bouts and that doesn't bother me a bit. If he



The action spills out of the ring—and The Sheik takes command.

HARLEY RACE VS. THE SHEIK

COULD HARLEY RACE SURVIVE A REMATCH WITH THE HATED SHEIK?

wants to use chairs, brass knuckles, or steel chains that's fine with me. I can fight that way also."

As the two combatants entered the ring, Creachman demanded that the referee check Harley for weapons. While Race was occupied convincing both the referee and Creachman that he did not have any concealed weapons, the Sheik "pearl harbored" him from behind.

With a crazed look on his face, the Sheik dragged Race to the ropes. The Sheik removed a plastic knife from his trunks and proceeded to rip open Harley's forehead. It didn't take long for the blood to start flowing. Within seconds, the blood had completely covered the champion's face.

It was a horrible sight. Harley Race was

drowning in his own blood and the Sheik had no intention of letting up.

Just when it looked as though the Sheik would walk away with the championship, Race made a comeback. And what a comeback it was. He sent the Sheik to the canvas and began knee-dropping the hated Arab.

The fans were on their feet screaming for more. Harley pulled the Sheik out of the ring and continued his assault. As the blood began to trickle down his face, the Sheik was handed a steel chain. Again the advantage swung to the Sheik.

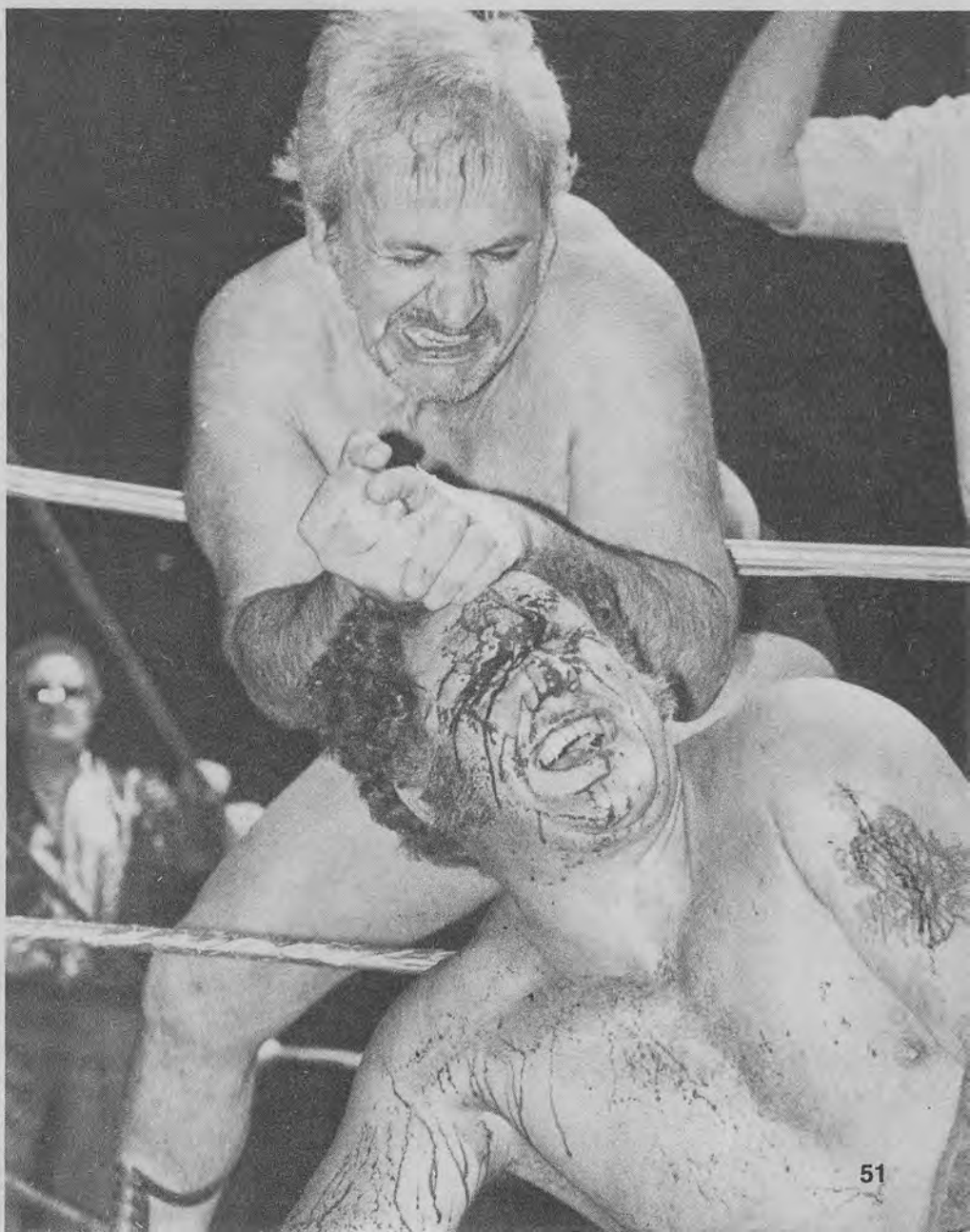
The Sheik tossed Harley's head into the wooden press table. Not once. Not twice. But three times. The bloody champion dropped to the cement floor as the Sheik paraded back into the ring.

The concerned referee began to examine the cuts across Harley's forehead. Suddenly Harley grabbed the referee by the hair and punched him. The referee immediately disqualified Harley Race and awarded the match to the Sheik. Due to the decision, Harley remained the champion.

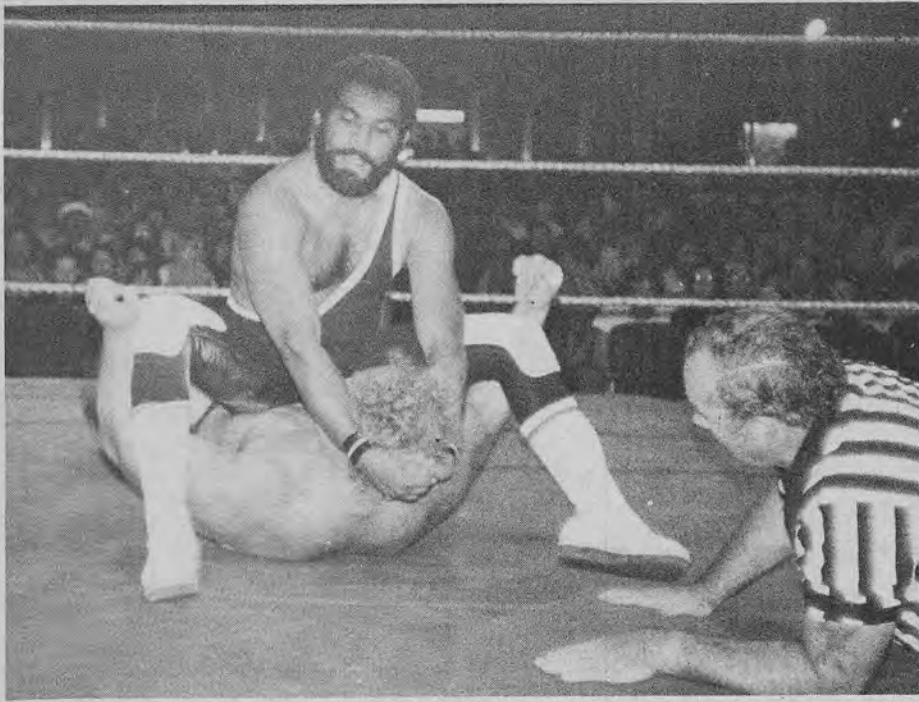
The Sheik and Creachman were furious with the decision. "That belt rightfully belongs to us," screamed Creachman. "Any man who has to punch the referee to save his title doesn't belong in professional wrestling. The Sheik is the uncrowned champion of the world!"

Across the hall, Harley Race was being attended to by his personal physician. After being stitched up, the still-weakened NWA

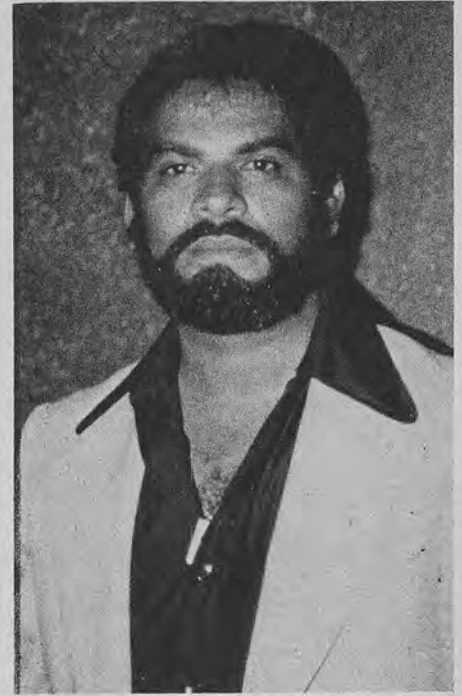
(Continued on page 64)



(Above) The Sheik sends Race to the mat after attacking him from behind. (Right) Harley Race screams out in pain as The Sheik worked him over with a rubber knife along the ropes.



Jack Veneno puts the pressure on. Jack is King of the Mat Sport in the Dominican Republic. (Photo by Lawrence James)



Veneno in pedestrian attire. Jack is the middleweight champion of the world and the Caribbean titleholder. (Photo by Lawrence James)

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: WRESTLING HOT SPOT

By J.F. SANCHEZ-ACOSTA

SANTO Domingo in the Dominican Republic was introduced to professional wrestling at the end of December in 1949. Since then, the sport has been growing at full space, not only in Santo Domingo but in Santiago de los Caballeros and other cities on the island. The mat sport has become the major spectator sport for the islanders.

Wrestling in this island nation would be unknown to fans today if it was not for a Dominican Republic business man who invited a group of wrestling stars to come to the island after their tour of Cuba and Puerto Rico. The troupe of traveling grapplers came to the island and touched off a explosion of wrestling popularity here.

From Spain came El Lobo de Aragon, El Gitano and Fernando Osés; El Incognito, Cantella, and El Conde, all from Peru; Ilio Di Paolo and former world boxing heavyweight champion Primo Carnera were from Italy. Saudi Arabia had the mad man known as Misterio as there representative. Brazil had Cabo Verde and Mario

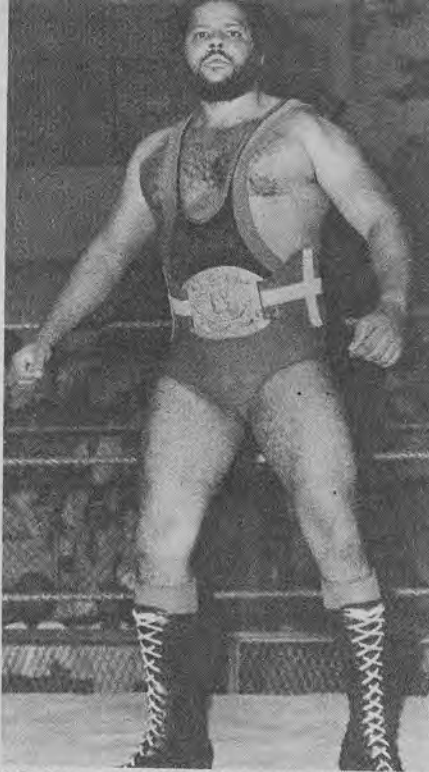
El Toro Negro is in trouble as Veneno is about to land on him. Jack belted Toro and won handily.



RING WRESTLING



Dixie Pinero, Puerto Rico, and Sammy Rivera, Mexico, make an unbeatable combination. They're full of ring knowledge and experience.



El Buitre, one of the toughest grapplers in the game. He loves to batter his opponents.



El Puma, left, and Jack Veneno, one of the most successful and most feared tag-teams in the Dominican Republic.

de Souza, who later became well known in the States during the mid 50's. Rumania rounded out the United Nations troupe with their wrestler, El Toro Rumano. The first troupe of wrestlers were outstanding grapplers and veteran fans consider them the best ever to appear on the island.

After the tour, all the wrestlers left the island except one, El Conde from Peru. He stayed and settled on the island, getting married and raising a large family. He also became part of the building of the wrestling scene on the island. His contact brought many stars to the island, and more importantly, he trained local youths to the wrestling profession. El Conde left the Dominican Republic a few years ago and went to New York City, where he is now living and spreading the Word of Christ as a minister. However, he left such wrestling talent behind in the form of: El Salvaje Cepeda, El Tigre de Bonao, El Cacique, El Pinta, Fu Ling Chang, El Yanguí, El Arabe, and others. These, along with others, are part of the wrestling scene in the Dominican Republic and other Caribbean hot spots.

The biggest news to the wrestling fans in the Dominican Republic was the birth of "Dominicara de Espectaculos," a new promotional body headed by Arcadio Disla Brito. Mr. Brito is the president of this new group and they have presented professional wrestling on a new level.

Dominicara de Espectaculos Promotions presents an hour wrestling tape in major cities. The success of these locally produced tapes is very good. Ratings for the showing of the program produced a viewership of 84.5%. Major businesses on the island try to buy time on this highly successful program to present their products.

The TV wrestling program has been a great success and promoter Brito has brought in many top stars. Some of the wrestlers that have been seen on our Lucha Libre have been: Manny Soto, El Santos, Jose Gonzales, Pecro Morales, Frank Killer, Saul Montez, Canelo Segura, the late Buddy Montez, Jose Miquel Perez, Bulldog Brower, Dr. Jerry Graham, and Billy Two Rivers. The great Antonio Rocca appeared just a month before his untimely death.

The fans here have their favorite star. In New York it is Bruno Sammartino. Texas has Fritz Von Erich. Montreal likes Ed Carpentier. In Japan it is Antonio Inoki. Here in the Dominican Republic it is Jack Veneno.

(Continued on page 59)



Relampago Hernandez is on the receiving end as Principe Sabud lets him have a few face slaps. The crowd loved seeing Hernandez take a beating.

THE ENDING OF THIS FEUD WILL NOT BE PRETTY

By JOHN AREZZI

IN a sport as physical as professional wrestling, tempers flair often and new feuds develop each day. It is not unusual to watch two wrestlers go against each other time and time again in different arenas to settle a score. At the present time on the east coast an all out war declared has erupted between Tony Garea and George "The Animal" Steele.

George Steele has been known to be one of the most unpredictable men ever to step inside a ring. He has torn up arenas, caused countless riots, and has sent many opponents to the hospital with his unorthodox methods. As each year progresses, Steele seems to get worse. He has justly deserved the nickname "Animal." On the other hand, Tony Garea has become one of the most popular men ever to step inside a ring. It is only natural that he and Steele would form a mutual dislike for each other. Garea hated everything Steele stood for and the Animal felt the same way about the New Zealand superstar. "He is a menace to this sport," Garea said when asked about Steele. "He uses chairs, metal objects, or anything he can get his hands on to defeat you. There is something wrong with him mentally. He shouldn't be in a ring, he should be in a padded cell."

Garea and Steele have met on several occasions. Their bouts have been one slugfest after another. Each time they meet the hatred intensifies between the two. It seems they are out to end each others careers. "Garea is a pansy, Steele snarled." He just cannot take a good fight. He seethes at what I do to some of my opponents. He gets angry at what I do to an arena. It's none of his business what I do, when I do it, and who I do



Tony Garea waves to the crowd before entering the ring. Garea has developed into one of the most popular performers in the mat world.

it to. If he keeps up this personal vendetta against me, I'm going to be forced to cripple the man."

What could be another factor in Garea's hatred for Steele is the man who manages the animal, Lou Albano. Albano and Garea have had no love for each other since 1972. "This punk Garea is a real jerk," Albano smirked. "I've hated the kid for years. When he wrestles Steele he thinks he has me in the ring because me and George think alike. The only thing Garea is doing with his grudge against Steele and myself is digging his own grave. We've just about had enough of this reject from a rugby team!"

The only people that really benefit from the Garea-Steele feud are the promoters. They know the fans will pack arenas to see these two in battle. But they also know

Garea and Steele will continue to sign contracts until one of them is forced to leave the ring for good. Recently, the two were booked to wrestle each other three times in one week, with all matches taking place in New England. Garea was asked about why he would want to wrestle Steele three times in one week. "I want to force him to retire," Garea said. "The more we meet, the better the chance I have to really do a number on him. When I first wrestled him several years back, I was actually afraid of the man. It was that fear that cost me that match. But, over the years my fear has turned to contempt. I have to rid wrestling of George Steele."

The first match of the Steele-Garea series took place in a small arena in Connecticut. It was a knockdown, dragout brawl with Garea the winner on a disqualification. Steele was caught with a metal object. The feud continued on to North Attleboro, Massachusetts. Once again, a no holds barred bout took place. This time both men were disqualified. There would be two days of rest before the two met again at the famed Boston Garden. Garea was upset at the turn of events thus far.

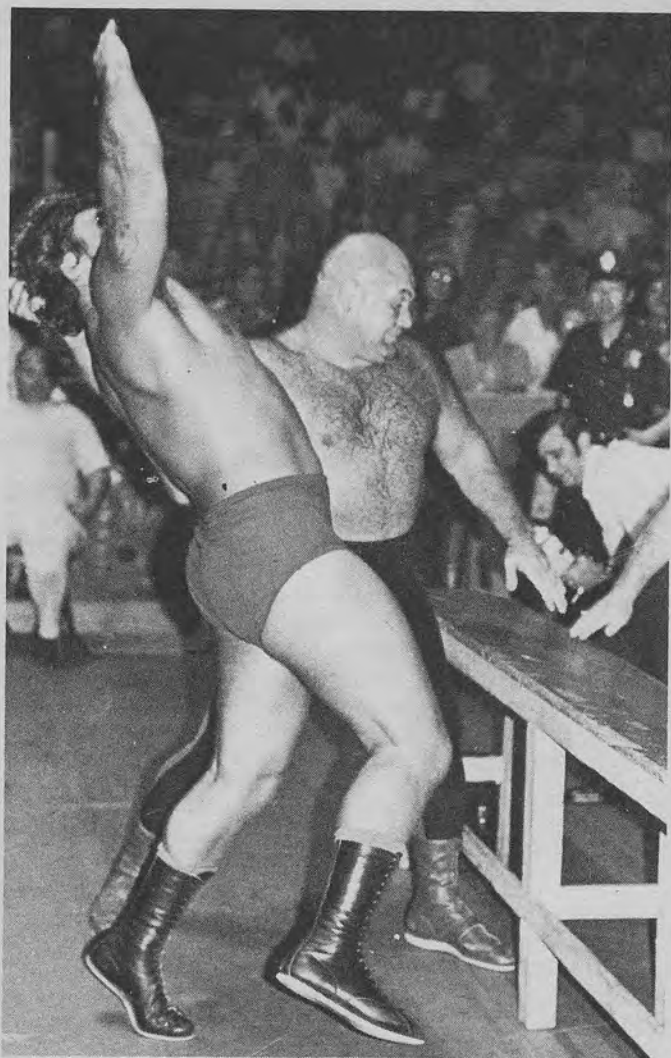
"He's not only a crazy man, but he is a coward too," Garea scowled. "If he's on the verge of losing, he either runs out of the ring or gets himself disqualified. It's very discouraging to go in there and know you cannot win because the man is afraid of you. I just hope in Boston he has the guts to go in there and not run out." When Steele was informed of Garea's latest verbal attack, he went bananas. "I've had it with that baby-faced punk. Steele screamed." He better keep being discouraged about knowing he won't win when we meet again, because I'm going to ruin him. He is going to wrestle his last match in Boston!"

The fans in the Boston Garden did not know about the statements made by Garea and Steele, nor were they aware of the intensity of their hatred for each other. The only thing they did know was that they were going to see one very exciting match.

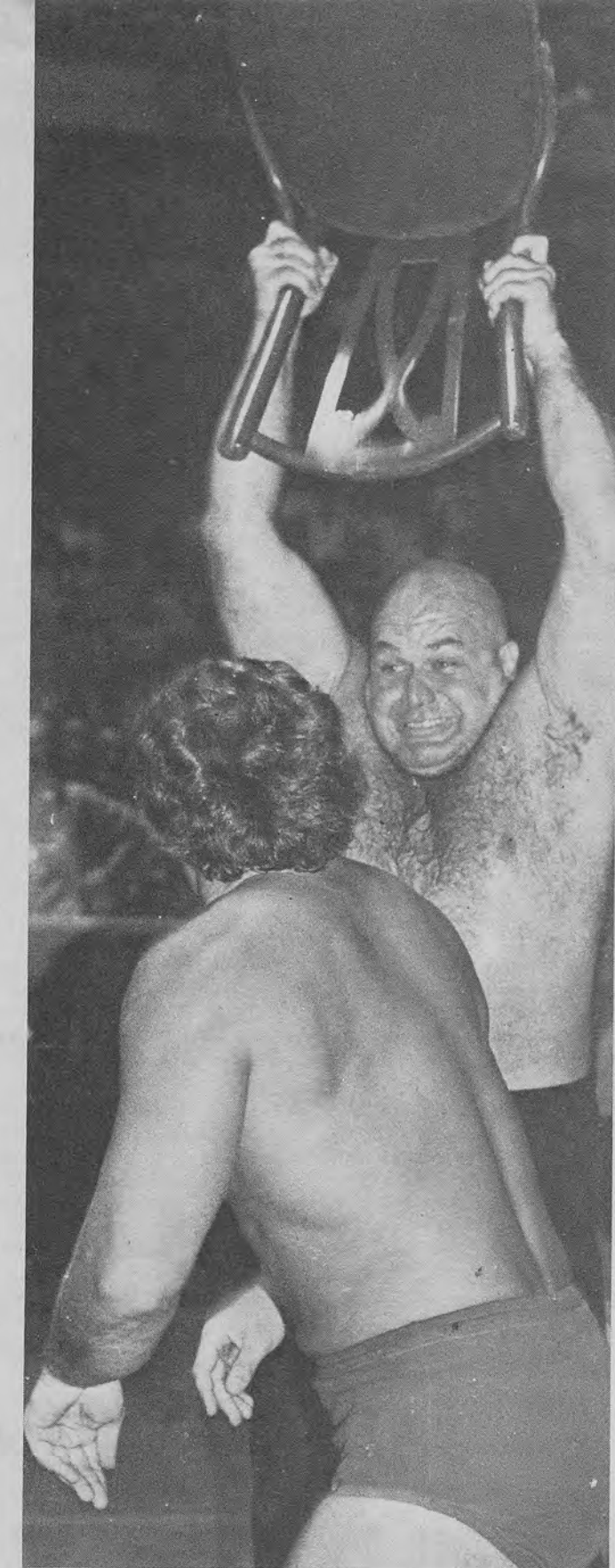
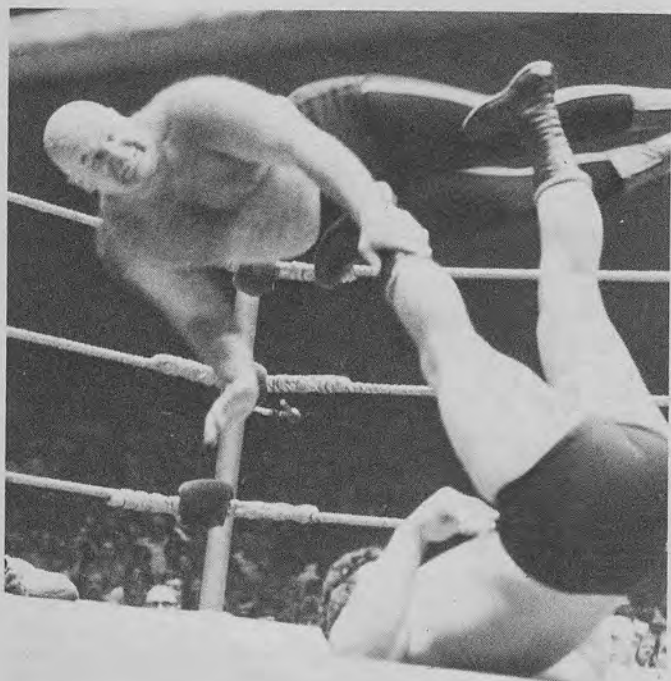
Steele stormed into the ring, took off his sweatshirt and began running around the squared circle. Garea also stormed into the ring and immediately attacked Steele. Intro-

(Continued on page 64)

TONY GAREA SWEARS: "I'LL MAKE STEELE RETIRE"



"The Animal" about to slam Garea's head into a press table. Steele cares little for the fine points of Grego-Roman.



(Left) Steele appears to be flying as he has a hold of Tony's leg. (Above) George prepares to hit Garea over the head with a chair.

THE CHRIS COLT STORY

(Continued from page 25)

Marilea Niedzial answered her phone one morning in April 1965. It was a collect call from Chris Colt in Boston, Mass. She accepted the call and listened to his story. He was invited to come to her farm in Berlin, Mass. Colt had enough money to pay for a one way ticket to Berlin. The meeting was a heart warming one for there stood a lonely young man, who needed a friend more now than anything else. Marilea welcomed him with open arms. The long relationship through the U.S. mails had started six years prior to that meeting. Now Chris and Marilea were meeting in person for the first time.

The next night was Tuesday and, like every Tuesday evening since 1950, Marilea would be in her ringside seat at the matches at Mechanics Hall in nearby Worcester, Mass. With her this time would be her young friend, Chris Colt. It was the last time Colt ever paid for an admission ticket to a wrestling event. Mrs. Niedzial introduced her friend to Tony Santos, the New England wrestling czar at that time. Mr. Santos listened to Chris' story and told him to show up at his office the next morning. Colt appeared at the appointed time and was given a job by Mr. Santos as a ring set up man. During the day he could workout at the Santos Wrestling School.

It wasn't long after Colt started working for the Santos promotions that he made his pro debut. His first match was in Chelsea, Massachusetts on May 24th, 1965 against the late Alex Medina. The twenty minute opener ended in a draw. That was the first of many matches, but that spring night and it still lives in Chris' memory. Colt has expressed his thanks to promoter Santos by informing any prospective wrestler of the Santos Wrestling School in Boston.

The name Chris Colt was not on the bill in Chelsea that May 24th night. Aliases in wrestling are common as hammerlocks. The wrestler matched against the late Alex Medina was Maurice Chevier. There are many reasons why wrestlers use aliases rather than their own names. In Colt's case he has gone through seven aliases in the short span of eleven years as a professional wrestler. For every alias he used there was a valid reason for using one. We will examine the use and reason behind each alias.

Maurice Chevier, a new face, a new name, a new identity for a youngster of 18 years attempting to make a living in the oldest sport in the world. "Chevier has a ring and color. Chris Colt is just far too simple," stated promoter Santos. Thus Colt became Chevier and kept that name for a little over a year and a half wrestling all over New England and in the Gulf Coast Circuit.

Don Juan The Magnificent was a creation of Colt's own mind. This was used on a tour of Eastern Canada in the late part of 1966. The name only lasted for a couple of months during his short stay in the Eastern end of

the Maple Leaf. The fans in the area took an instant hate for Don Juan and the same fans have the same feeling for Colt today.

In the fall of 1966, he teamed with the late Ronnie "Golden Boy" Dupree and was billed as Paul Dupree. The name Dupree was an established name in the mat profession. The association with Ron as a tag team partner is one of the longest in the history of wrestling. This duo made wrestling history in the southwest. They held all regional tag-team laurels as well as winning a local version of the world tag-team championship. It was while in Arizona that they became friends with a motor-cycle gang known as the Hell's Angels from California. The friendship developed into a close relationship between the two wrestlers and the motorcycle cadre, so much so that Ron and Chris were made honorary members of the famous cycle gang.

Detroit promoter Francis Flesher was on vacation in Arizona in early 1967 when he happened to see the Dupree Bros. on the local television wrestling card. The Motor city promoter was so impressed with the duo that he contacted the two wrestling brothers via the local wrestling promoter. Mr. Flesher offered them a contract to come to Detroit with a large sum of money that would be their guarantee. The Duprees informed Mr. Flesher that they would think about it. Four months after that initial meeting, Francis Flesher received a phone call from Arizona. It was from the Dupree Bros. They wanted some bookings in the Detroit area and Ohio circuit while enroute back to New England to wrestle for Promoter Santos. They never made it back to New England, for it was in Detroit that they met up with success.

The Motor City debut saw the team of the Hell's Angels—Dupree Bros. Their reception was just unbelievable. Promoter Flesher has been put on record to say that he never saw a team to make such an impact on the fans in his circuit as the Hell's Angels did. Their debut in the famous Cobo Convention Hall had the fans standing in their seats as they demolished their opponents. A string of victories was long, and then they got what they wanted—a contract to meet the NWA World Tag Team Champions, the Fabulous kangaroos, Al Costello and Roy Heffernan. The tag match was the main event that evening in 1967 and the Cobo Hall was a complete sellout. The Angels defeated the Kangaroos and became the terror of tag team competition. The victories piled up and, while the tactics of the Angels were often questioned, the verdict still remained that the Angels were the best duo around.

For two and a half years, the Angels defeated any team that was put up against them. Then, in 1969, they met the team of Lou and Roy Klein. Both teams had a fall a piece and during the third fall the reign of the Hell's Angels ended. Ron Dupree was injured as a result of an atomic drop delivered by Roy Klein. Chris has this to say about their defeat and match: "It was a complete miscarriage of justice. Roy Klein

was in the ring illegally Ron was in the ring with Lou and had the advantage over the curly-haired red head. Ron was applying a stomach claw to the elder Klein and his end was near. Roy Klein yelled at the referee that I was running into the ring. The ref turned around and started to warn me even though I was doing nothing but holding on the tag rope tasting the sweetness of victory. While all this was going on Roy Klein sneaked into the ring and picked up Ron and gave him an atomic drop. He then threw his brother on top of Ron. By the time the ref got back there it was too late. He made the count of three. I was furious and ran into the ring and started to kick and murder Roy Klein. Cops ran into the ring and separated us. Then it dawned on me. That during all this confusion and excitement neither my partner nor his opponent were moving. I released myself from my captors by throwing them out of the ring. I ran to Ronnie and saw that we were seriously hurt. The atomic drop that was illegally applied by Klein had injured the spine of my partner. The attending doctor ordered an ambulance and got Ronnie to a hospital."

The result of the match was not only the loss of the tag team title but also the break up of one of the most successful tag team in the history of wrestling. Chris turned to wrestling as a single under the name of Paul Dupree. Ron went into retirement and became involved with a number of night clubs in Detroit.

It was about the same time that another tag team split up due to a misfortune. The tag duo known as the Chain Gang had broken up when Frank Mack, one of the members, was involved in a gun fight that resulted in his losing a leg. The other member of the team, Don "Fargo" Dillinger, was without a partner. He had heard of the bad luck the Hell's Angels had. He contacted Paul Dupree and arranged for a meeting to be held in order to determine if they could form a successful tag team. When the meeting was held, both parties agreed that they would form a team. Neither wrestler, however, was anxious to use the same style as they had when teamed with their former partners. With a flip of a coin they became known as the Dillinger Gang.

Paul Dupree/Hell's Angel #1 now was Jim Dillinger. The partnership lasted for nearly a year. It was while they were wrestling in the AWA territory that they met the team of Mad Dog and Butcher Vachon for the AWA World Tag Team Championship. The match took place in Chicago's International Amphitheatre. The boyhood dream of wrestling in that famous arena had come true. Chris and his partner drew with the Vachons in one of the most hectic tag battles ever to be presented in the Windy City. After their match with the AWA tag team champions, the partners decided it best to go on their own. Don Fargo went East and teamed with Johnny Fargo and met up with success. Chris went back to Arizona and was reunited with his old partner, Ron Dupree.

They teamed once again, this time as The Commacharos. They achieved success once again, but the promoters had a bad money set back and went bankrupt.

The reality of using seven aliases in less than a decade of being a wrestler made Colt stop and think. He kept hearing about a wrestler named Buddy Colt making a name for himself in the Southern rings. He remembered Buddy was a novice in the wrestling scene the same time he was and they both were wrestling for Tony Santos back in the early 1960's. Yet, Buddy Colt was not using that name but another. Chris decided right then and there he would return to using his right name and started to bill himself as Christopher Colt III.

The next stop for Colt after Arizona was Omaha for promoter Joe Dusek. It was there that he started to wrestle under his own name and had a manager in the form of Ron Dupree, who was billed as Ronald of Hollywood. It was one hellious duo. The attendance rose to an all time high in Nebraska and wrestling has never been the same in that state since Colt left. His matches with Cowboy Bob Ellis are nothing but pure bloodbaths for both wrestlers. The state wrestling commission took action and barred both Colt and his manager from wrestling in the state again. The Omaha press called the then 26-year-old wrestler Controversial Christopher Colt. After being banned in Nebraska he headed to Portland, Oregon for promoter Don Owens. He only wrestled a couple of nights and never made it back to Seattle.

His next stop was heartbreak. As mentioned earlier in this story Chris was and still is a rock music freak. Because of his being a top wrestling star it has enabled him to mix and mingle with the superstars of the rock world. It was during a party that he was introduced to the late Janis Joplin. A warm and personal relationship developed between these two controversial stars. When informed Janis Joplin died of an overdose, Chris Colt cried and was overheard saying, "The Big H took my love" while slamming his fist into a locker in the dressing room in Detroit's Cobo arena.

The death of Janis Joplin took a lot out of Colt. He became depressed and cursed the use of hard drugs. He started to miss his bookings and was jumping from one side to another during the wrestling war in Detroit in the early 70's. It was with the advice and help of a close friend, The Grand Wizard, that Colt was booked into Texas. The Texas tour brought Chris success. He teamed with Bobby Dancum and they won the Texas State Championship. The duo lasted for about six months. Chris then packed his bags and went to Arizona to wrestle for a new promotional group.

The Grand Canyon State had always been one of Colt's favorite areas. It was here in Arizona that he would be able to take time and "get his head together." It was with the help of an Indian Princess named Tona Tomah, one of the all-time greats in girl wrestl-

ing, that he was able to get his stuff together and win the Arizona State Championship. Like the preceeding promoters, the Arizona office went into bankruptcy. That was in 1973.

In 1974, Chris Colt invaded the wrestling rings of Mexico. He became the most hated wrestler to ever appear south of the border. He was hated so much that the promoters had to triple their security guards whenever Colt was slated to wrestle. The Mexican press called Colt "Loco (Crazy) Chris Colt." The fans would chant "Loco Chris" when Colt would enter the ring, in the streets and everywhere he went. His matches with Mexican stars like Anibal, Raul Ryes, El Santos and others were nothing more than bloodbaths. His style of wrestling had never been seen in Mexico.

The atmosphere got so bad that Colt holds the "distinction" of being the first American wrestler ever to be deported from Mexico. The most horrifying incident took place in a hotel lounge. Colt was sitting in the lounge having a beer when in ran an enraged young Mexican. The young intruder withdrew a knife and yelled at Colt. Chris looked up and saw the youth heave the knife. Lucky for Colt that a young British gentleman was sitting at the next table. He launched from his chair and pushed Colt to the floor. If the kindly man from England hadn't pushed Colt out of the chair this story would be ended. It was after this incident that Colt was escorted from his hotel to the air port by the police to be deported back to the States.

On his return to the United States, Chris headed back home to Seattle, Washington. For the first time in ten years he was back with his mother and sister. Chris looked up an old friend, Dean Silverstone. Mr. Silverstone was the head of a new wrestling office in the Pacific Northwest called Superstar Wrestling. It was fate that Ron Dupree was booked in the area at the time. A reunion took place and Dupree and Colt were teaming once again. It was like old times. The Hell's Angels were back together and were better than ever. They soon captured the Washington State Championship. Success, being at home, among friends, was something that Chris Colt had long awaited for. It took ten years for him to return home as a pro wrestler but he did and it was with great personal pleasure that he was back home. Like in the past when things were going just right, something would happen to upset the apple cart. It was in Tacoma, Washington, when Colt was wrestling Paddy Ryan. The commissioner stopped the match and suspended Colt right there in the middle of the ring. What can be said? Injustice. Yes, Colt packed his bags and bid farewell to his mother and sister. He headed to the Gulf Coast circuit with Ronnie for Promoter Lee Fields.

The Gulf Coast tour was one of the best tours any tag team has ever had in the Lee Field's circuit. It wasn't long before the Hell's Angels were the tag team champions in the area. The Angels were knocking 'em

dead all over the Gulf Coast area and they held the title for eight months. It was on a fluke that the champions lost the title.

Word had reached Colt that a new group was promoting in Arizona. Chris contacted the promoter and he and Ronnie were booked into the territory. Things went well, for the fans in Arizona had remembered Chris Colt and Ronnie Dupree from years before. It was in Arizona that Chris met up with another wrestler known as Billy Anderson. The promotions were going so-so when Ronnie Dupree had a heart attack. The Angels were split again and this time there would never be a reunion, or a team ever to match the Angels. The Hell's Angels had been booked to appear in Tennessee for Nick Gulas. Since Ronnie was unable to appear, Chris asked Billy if he would like to be his partner. Anderson agreed and the formation of the Colt Bros. came into being.

In the old gasoline circuit, Colt teamed with Bill Dundee and Billy "Anderson" Colt acted as their valet. The team of Chris and Billy Colt never worked out and both went their own way after their contract for promoter Gulas was up. Billy went to Chicago and Chris went to Seattle, Washington, back to Silverstone's promotions. Ronnie Dupree was back in the picture too. Ron had recovered from his heart attack and was now the publicity director for Superstar Wrestling Promotions. The suspension was lifted for Colt and he was back wrestling in his favorite area, the Pacific Northwest.

With the suspension lifted, Colt was in the spotlight once again and won the State Title from Paddy Ryan. Then tragedy came again for Colt. On October 17th, 1975, in Tacoma, Washington, Ronnie Dupree died of a heart attack. While announcing the first match on the Tacoma card, Ron Dupree collapsed and died. Shortly after that incident, the Superstar Wrestling promotions folded and Chris left the area.

While in Seattle, Washington, Colt met a wrestler by the name of Count Drummer. He talked the Count into becoming his new tag team partner. They contacted Detroit promoter Francis Flesher and were signed for a series of matches. Colt with his "Alice Cooper" looks and Drummer with his image of Count Dracula, made the most unusual tag team ever to appear in a wrestling ring in Detroit. The unusual duo went out to win the world tag team championship. One night while defending the title The Count suffered a bad leg injury and Colt had to choose a new partner. Chris took on Lanny Poffo. The choice sounds good but in reality it was a mistake. Colt and Poffo feuded among themselves and this caused poor team work and thus the title was lost. Disgusted with Motor City, the mind of Chris Colt started to get into motion. He realized that he would never have another partner like his late friend and comrade, Ronnie Dupree. He decided that he would now wrestle as a single. He asked his advisor, Abdullah Farouk, and the Master of All managers agreed and gave

Colt his blessing.

Leaving Michigan, Chris headed to Big Bear Promotions of Ontario. It was the summer of 1976 and Colt was going at it alone for the first time in seven years. It was a tour of the Southern Ontario circuit that Colt started to find himself. He had been into the rock scene for sometime and knew stars like Joe Cocker, Alice Cooper and Elton John, along with others.

The Hell's Angels image no longer fitted Christ Colt. He had to be released of all these gimmicks and be himself.

Chris Colt is being seen for the first time by fans with a new look. He uses eye make-up, flamboyant ring attire, a gant walk, and actions that make Colt one in a million. He enters the ring with the playing of an Alice Cooper song.

Colt is an expression of his love of his own life style and attitude. In recent weeks, this writer has been with Chris, getting information for this story. There is only one possible ending and that is to quote Alice Cooper. Alice has said this about Chris Colt: "Chris Colt is the most revolting, disgusting thing I have ever seen besides myself."

ALEXIS SMIRNOFF: THE MAD RUSSIAN

(Continued from page 15)

"I have been athletic all of my life," he remembered. "I played sports and I was a very capable athlete. More so, I was very big and strong and very tough. I enjoyed single competition so when I became an adult I knew something like wrestling would be perfect for me.

"I have been successful with wrestling since I first started and after several matches the promoters wanted me to team up with other wrestlers and I didn't know if I would like tag team wrestling or not. Well, I tried it and liked it but I still prefer single wrestling to tag teams. In single wrestling, you don't have a partner that you must blame a loss on, or on the other hand, share a victory with.

"I believe it should be man against man, one against one and may the best man win—regardless of how."

Smirnoff is known for wearing a "loaded" boot. He enters the ring with his heavy boots and when the going gets rough he taps his boot to the mat, bringing the inserted object to the toe, and he then kicks his foe hard over the head, knocking him out. He then pins him and the match is over and Smirnoff is the winner.

Of course, if he is caught with the object it would result in another automatic disqualification, but he is seldom caught. He is extremely careful of being caught so he normally leaves the ring immediately after his victory so referees cannot check his boot for any objects. If he guesses that a particular referee will check his boot before the match starts, he will keep the object in the tights and then insert it into his boot later when the ref's eyes are elsewhere.

Admittedly, this bit of unsportsmanlike conduct has gotten him a long ways in his chosen profession as he will win his matches through either fair means or foul—usually foul.

"I am also tired of hearing about American writers who say that I cheat in the ring," he shouted. "Just remember one thing—I do not *have* to cheat to win my matches. I could defeat any and all wrestlers seven days a week with my hands tied behind my back and I wouldn't have to break any rules.

"The American people are insanely jealous of me and it shows with their attitude about me. Just because the Americans do not have a wrestler as capable as I to represent them does not mean they have to take it out on me through insults. I am tired of all of this and I will put these rumors of my breaking rules to a halt.

"And I now issue a warning," he continued. "If the fans don't learn to respect and admire me like they should, if the referees don't refrain from being so damned prejudice in the future, I am going to take it out on all of their lousy American wrestlers. You think I have injured plenty of wrestlers up until now? You haven't seen anything yet! The wrestlers who seem to be the fans' favorites like Ray Stevens, The Guerero Brothers, Dean Ho, Jimmy Snuka, and others will be very sorry. I will take it all out on them!"

Standing 6'2" and weighing 281 pounds, Smirnoff is far from a pushover. And, he has gone a long way in wrestling and he has stated that he is not finished with injuring opponents. He will hurt more and more until he is satisfied.

"A lot of people have approached me about him," promoter Roy Shire said. "There is nothing I can do about the man. That's the referee's problem, not mine. If the referee catches him breaking the rules, he will be properly punished. Believe me, I care about his injuring so many great wrestlers, but there is nothing I personally can do to stop him. After all, he has a license to wrestle and that cannot be revoked until he is caught doing something drastically wrong and illegal. But, believe me, if he is caught using objects or something like that, I will be the first to see that his license is taken away from him. As vice-president of the National Wrestling Alliance I could use my authority that way, but only after he is caught."

In the meantime, thousands of fans constantly turn out to see him in hopes of witnessing his defeat. They are, however, normally turned down. In 8 years of pro wrestling, he has lost only 9 matches and seven of those were due to a disqualification which, as he says, because the referees are prejudiced.

Will he continue to injure opponents? Will he win back the United States Heavyweight Championship? Will he become the most hated man in wrestling? Only time will tell.

DINO BRAVO: ON HIS WAY TO A TITLE

(Continued from page 8)

Camden, N.J. If I'm close to New York, I go to the Mid City gym. If I'm in Connecticut, I train in the Olympia Health Spa in New Haven. No matter where I am I always find a gym close by to do my workouts," he explained.

Bravo's "workout" consist of several repetitions with the dumbbells and the universal machine. Dino also bench presses quite a heavy amount of weights. "Once I bench pressed 545 pounds. Right now, after a few preliminary tries, I could bench press 500 pounds. There's no telling how much I could do if I keep it up. But I'm going to see what the record is for a 240 pounder and try for it. I don't really think my 545 is too far off the official record."

Although it would be nice to hold the bench pressing record, Bravo admittedly would rather see himself holding a major championship.

"Body building is good, but my major concern is wrestling. Besides weight lifting I also work out quite a bit on the mats perfecting holds and counter holds to use in the ring. You could never know enough about this sport. There are so many holds and variations of holds that's impossible to learn them all. That's why I try to watch as many matches as I can.

"I feel that if I'm exposed to all styles of wrestling and know what to expect when I step in that ring, I have a better chance of coming out on top. So far I've been successful. I only hope that in the future lady luck will stay with me and help me win one of the big singles titles. This is what I would really like, and with some help I think I can do it," Dino said.

With his tremendous background in the sport, one should be very surprised if Dino Bravo doesn't do it in the very near future. Dino Bravo has all the tools to take him straight to the top and someday the good looking Italian should be the prize holder of the coveted world's belt.

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BRITISH MAT UPDATE

(Continued from page 47)

Mick McManus in a non-title bout on television, and soon afterwards taking the crown from McManus in a title bout.

Non-title Bout: McManus gained the first fall in the second session, with Sanders getting the equalizing fall in the next round from a flying tackle and crosspress on taking his man to the canvas. In the fourth, Sanders upended McManus quite easily and got the winning fall.

The Sanders-McManus title bout was a much harder affair, with McManus pulling out all the stops in an effort to retain his title. This time, it took McManus until the fifth, before a pinfall from a bodyslam and press. By the sixth, McManus had two public warnings against him as he was fighting hard, rough, and desperately, to keep on top of his young challenger.

Sanders equalized in forty seconds of the seventh round from a bodyslam and crosspress.

During the eighth, Sanders was in a great deal of trouble from a leg-dive and stepover leglock, but he managed to stay out the round.

The ninth proved to be the last, when a flying tackle from Sanders sent McManus into the ropes, but when McManus assisted Sanders over the top ropes, referee Brian Crabtree disqualified the champion, and thus Mal Sanders became the new European middleweight champion whilst lying on the floor outside the ring.

Big Bruno, at something like 19 st. (266 lbs.) tested handsome newcomer Johnny Wilson in a heavyweight bout. Wilson went into the lead with a rolling leg dive take down and pinfall. Big Bruno, very much the heavier man, got himself disqualified when he had equalized with a submission hold but refused to release his hold immediately on gaining the submission fall.

"Big Daddy" the dreaded heavyweight of British wrestling circles, is loved by the fans, but this love isn't shared by his ring opponents when he hurls his twenty five st. (350 lbs.) tonnage on his ring rivals. Even men near his own weight just simply cannot stand up to him. Lesser men are lucky, or unlucky as the case may be, to stay in the ring until the second round.

Brian Maxine, the British middleweight champion, defended his title against Bert Royal at Cardiff. Whilst it lasted, it was indeed a good, fast, entertaining bout, until Royal, on bouncing against the ropes, fell through and injured himself to the dismay of the near capacity wrestling crowd and the delight of the none too popular Brian Maxine. Bert Royal was unable to continue and in the dressing room afterwards, Maxine boasted of how he had retained his crown. Maybe Bert Royal will have something to say about this in the near future, as I feel sure a return title match is a must.

World lightweight champion Johnny Saint won in defence of his title against Jim

Breaks. This battle contained first rate wrestling by both combatants with a good mixture of speed and skill. As the bout progressed, the needle element crept in, but Saint justly won the match, two falls to one.

John Naylor did well to come out on top over strongman Alan Dennison, as the latter, at fourteen st. (196 lbs.) outweighed Naylor by thirty-five lbs. A hard bout for John Naylor, who won in the seventh, two falls to one. I'm sure this young wrestler must have gained many new supporters on such a showing. We all know of the terrific strength of Dennison, which makes Naylor's win all the greater.

Tiger Woods' ring action is rough and ready at best, but he wouldn't have gained any new friends with his showing against Bert Royal. However, a fall through the ropes by Woods and he was counted out.

Colin Joynson did well to place Kendo Nagasaki twice through the ropes, but this infuriated Nagasaki, and placing a grapevine hold on Joynson brought matters to an end as Joynson could do no other than submit and lose the bout by the only fall required to decide the winner.

Jackie Turpin, nephew of the late Randy Turpin the former world middleweight boxing champion, was himself once a leading boxer, until he decided he could do better for himself as a wrestler.

Jackie withstood all the rough tactics of Tally Ho Kaye, and still come back to win, two falls to one.

WILD MIXED TAG MATCH IN PUERTO RICO

(Continued from page 19)

corner, the Indian, remembering what had just happened to her, let Barabas have it but good! The crowd couldn't have been happier as the two favorites worked over the evil one. Soon afterwards, Georgie tagged off to Nave and the Indian was not to be denied this time. As soon as LoBianco entered the ring Nyoka tossed her all around the mat and then, after setting her opponent up beautifully, the Princess executed a reverse cradle and pin.

With this move, the team of Black Georgie and Nyoka Nave defeated the Barabas-Pepper LoBianco combination to win the match.

The fans who witnessed this action packed battle should remember it for a long time to come and, hopefully, more matches of this type will take place in the very near future here in Puerto Rico.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: WRESTLING HOT SPOT

(Continued from page 53)

Jack Veneno is the shining star of the promotions. Veneno is a native, from Santo Domingo, who has wrestled all over the Caribbean, Central America, Mexico, and parts of South America. He has also wrestled in North America, including a shot in Madison Square Garden in New York City. The

36-year-old wrestler is the King of the Mat Sport in his homeland and has a vast army of fans. The star has appeared recently on the mat of the Vega International Promotions, which present cards in Spanish Harlem in New York City. The response has been quite a success, with standing room only crowds filling the venues whenever Jack Veneno is slated to appear.

Jack Veneno is only one of many fine wrestlers from the Dominican Republic. The sport is alive and well in the Dominican Republic and will continue to grow under the guidance of Mr. Brito and the Dominicana de Espectaculos Promotions.

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WORLD'S OLDEST SPORT ATTRACTS THE FAMOUS

By DAVE CAMERON

IT has recently been revealed that Her Majesty, The Queen is an avid wrestling fan. The surprise disclosure comes in the newly published Grossman Diaries, in which the late Richard Grossman kept a day by day account of his years as a Cabinet Minister.

The Queen told Grossman how she enjoyed professional wrestling and how she thought it was "tremendous fun." She described in graphic detail to the Minister how a wrestler had been thrown out over the ropes, landed on his feet and, after writhing in agony, had suddenly shot back into the ring, siezed his opponent and scored a fall.

Grossman, on being told by the Queen how much she had enjoyed watching wrestling contests, asked her Majesty: "Do you want a Royal Charter for them?" The Queen replied: "No, not yet."

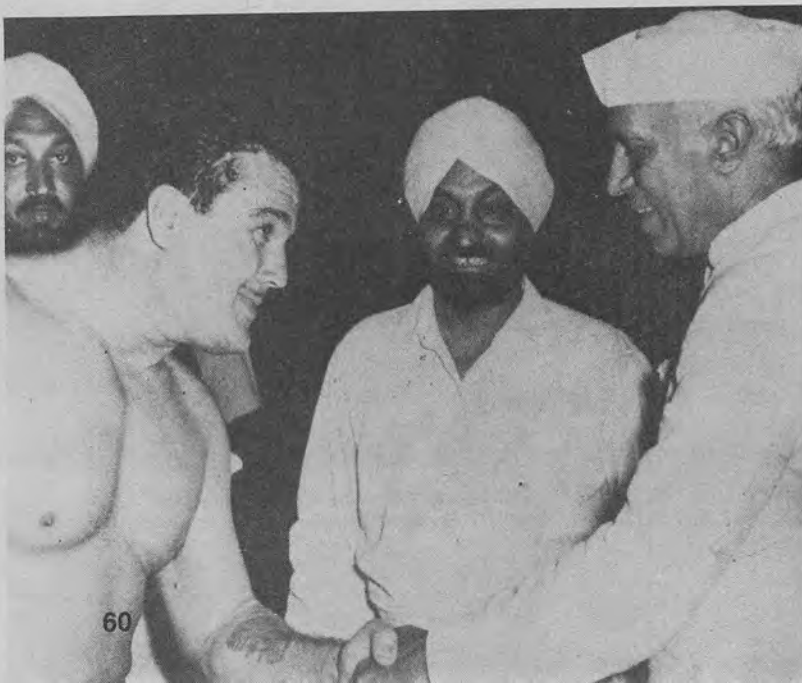
Grossman writes in the diary that it was interesting to hear what a vivid description she gave of the whole scene. He tells how the Queen turned and twisted as she demonstrated what had happened in the ring.



U.S. President Jimmy Carter gets a headlock on "Mr. Wrestling." The president has no intention, however, of becoming a professional wrestler if he loses his bid for re-election in 1980.



(Left) Sheik Wadih Youseff Ayoub is greeted by the late Mr. Nehru, then prime minister of India. (Above) Shek Wadih receives best wishes from another high-ranking Indian official.



Kings and Queens Are Numbered Among Wrest- ling's Fans



King George and Queen (now Queen Mother) Elizabeth George Clark, the famous Scottish wrestler and Highland Games champion. Princess Margaret is at the left.

It is interesting to note that King Henry VIII was a powerful wrestler and twice grappled with Francis I of France. (The results have remained a diplomatic secret.) He defeated a popular local giant of Kent, although his opponent in this match may have considered it wiser to lose the bout than lose his head.

On public holidays, open-air wrestling matches were held all over the country, and in London, the Lord Mayors and Sheriffs used to attend at St. Gile's Field until spectator brawls brought the ancient sport into disrepute.

In 1963 wrestling received a royal boost when Prince Phillip, the duke of Edinburgh attended wrestling in London. The Royal Albert Hall was sardine-full as Prince Phillip took his place among the ringside mink and diamond audience at the first royal wrestling show since Henry the Eighth.

He shook the hand of wrestling fan Bessie Braddock, two paces away, then sat next to ex-wrestling champion, Jack Dale. Ben Waris of the Water Rats, and Sir Leary Constantine were among the ringside faces. The proceeds of the night's entertainment went to Prince Philip's Award scheme.

The two the Prince seemed to enjoy the most was the giant Tartan-clad Scotsman, Ian Campbell, who bowed deeply before his bout and World lightweight champion, George Kidd.

Kidd, who beat Spanish champion, Modesto Aledo, with his expected Houdini act, had the Duke sitting forward and roaring with laughter as he perplexed his opponent by rolling himself into a human ball.

But a ringside seat has its moment of peril. The match between that darling of the crowds, Dazzling Joe Cornelius and German champion, Herman Iffland became vicious.

With a grunt that sounded like "ouleech", Iffland picked up Cornelius in his hairy grasp and hurled him from the ring. If the Duke's shoes weren't polished before, they were then.

The big match of the night saw the snarling tiger of a Hungarian refugee, Tibor Szakacs snatch a winning fall from New Zealand's Big John DaSilva.

Since that occasion in 1963, the Duke has again graced the Albert Hall ringside as has Prince Charles. And only last November the Duke of Kent was in the front row at ringside as a guest of Dale Martin Promotions for the Silver Jubilee Wrestling Spectacular.

And this was no grace and favour attendance. About seven thousand grappling fans who packed the venue could see the Royal

(Continued on page 65)



New Zealand's John DaSilva with Prince Phillip, duke of Edinburgh. Wrestling received a boost when the prince attended the matches in London.

11TH ANNUAL WFIA CONVENTION IS BEST EVER

(Continued from page 18)

boys are two of the toughest fellas around any place today. From the beast we went to beauty with the girl wrestler of the year being named. Miss Joyce Grable won the award this year. Manager of the year was named next, and the fans were excited to learn that the winner was Ron Wright. A new award was introduced this year, the Achievement Award, presented to Rip Smith. Promoter of the Year went to the Southeastern Promotions with Les Thatcher accepting for Don Curtis, who was away at an emergency meeting of the National Wrestling Alliance in Kansas City the day of the banquet. Les Thatcher was named announced of the year. The referee award was presented to Ron Sexton, the outstanding third man in Tennessee. The "main event" award, from the Association to a wrestling personality is the coveted Wrestler of The Year Award. This year it was something quite unique. At the tenth annual Convention, in Dallas, Texas, Tommy Seigler was presented with the award. This year, Tommy Seigler was on hand to present the award to Ronnie Garvin, the winner of the 1978 trophy. It was quite an event and everyone was very pleased with the presentation by Tommy Seigler to a wrestler that he has faced in the ring as an opponent and as a tag team partner. As in the past, the Wrestler of the Year presents the Fan of the Year trophy. Miss Lillian Schnur was the winner for this special honor given to a fan that has done the most for the sport. Miss Schnur has attended all but one of the eleven conventions. She is always helpful to fans that are visiting her home city of St. Louis, Missouri in giving them advice and answering their questions. She also corresponds with many fans across the nation. She indeed is the fan of the year.

The highlight for this writer at this year's banquet, and every year, is to present the annual *Ring Wrestling Magazine* Award. This year, the award was presented to one of the best professional wrestlers around today, Ron Fuller. Ron is one of the top contenders for the National Wrestling Alliance Championship. He has been wrestling for some eight years and has become a great draw in the South as well as in Texas and in Japan. The coveted award was cheerfully accepted by the popular star.

Another award that was presented at the banquet was the Fan Club of the year. This award is presented to the best fan club around. This year, the judge was Roger Deem. After long consideration, Roger gave his nod to the Billy Francis Fan Club after the approval of the Board of Directors. The mother and son combination of Joan and Raymond McGuire accepted the award.

After the awards banquet, the guests and fans went to the Convention display room and looked over the large amount of displays. It was also a time for the conven-

tioners to mix with the wrestling personalities and take photos and get autographs or just chit chat.

That evening saw a re-run of the presentations of various awards at the Civic Center in front of a near sell out crowd. The all-star wrestling card presented by Southeastern promotions had a lot of action with the following results: Ronnie Garvin defeated Professor Boris Malenko. Dennis Condry and Phil Hickerson retained their Southeast tag team championship over Jimmy Golden and Kevin Sullivan. The Mongolian Stomper won Robert Fuller. Gorgeous George, Jr. defeated Ted Allen. Rip Smith bested The Masked Jawbreaker. Joyce Grable defeated Lei Lani Kai.

The last day of the convention was filled with lots of chatter, laughs, good-byes and more. The chairman of the board opened the meeting and informed the conventioners that the 1979 Wrestling Fans International Association will be held in the month of July in Memphis, Tennessee. The Jerry Jarrett promotions will be our host promoter and Eddie Gilbert, well known writer and photographer, is the convention chairman.

The choice of having Memphis was quite hard, however, top class wrestling talent in that city is unique. The Jerry Jarrett Wrestling promotions is under both the National Wrestling Alliance and the American Wrestling Association. Having both the NWA and AWA world champions on a convention card is a great possibility. Regardless, the fans attending the 1979 WFIA convention will be treated to some high class wrestling and a look at two different factions in professional wrestling, the NWA and the AWA under one tent.

For details on the 1979 WFIA convention, contact the association headquarters by writing to: Mike Gratchner, 415 Belview Ave., Normal, Ill. 61761. Yours truly will be at the Memphis Convention, along with quite a few other fans, and will be looking forward to meeting all of you.

PAMPERO FIRPO

(Continued from page 46)

heavyweight champion.

"I am always happy to have Firpo on my cards," promoter Vince McMahon of New York once stated. "He is a great wrestler and the fans always come out to see him in action no matter where he is wrestling. Let's face it; he draws in the people and that means big box office money. The only problem is that I always have competition. All of the promoters throughout the world want to have him on their cards so he is in great demand constantly. I have to book him months ahead for a match. It takes many phone calls to finally reach him and when I do he is often booked for the night I want him.

"But, that's always the sign of a great wrestler. And that is just what Pampero Firpo is. Truly a great wrestler!"

Firpo never is too busy to sign autographs,

pose for pictures, or to chat with the fans about wrestling. He always takes time to be interviewed by newspaper writers, and television and radio announcers. Anytime Firpo is wrestling in the area, rest assured the local newspapers will be doing a write-up on him.

Currently, Firpo wants to get even with Playboy Buddy Rose and Alexis Smirnoff, two roughnecks who did him wrong in the ring recently. No one injures Firpo and gets away with it and he insisted that someday, somewhere soon he will repay them.

He also is after the United States heavyweight championship, currently on the brow of Rose, who is the kind who, like Pampero several years ago, would do anything, illegal or not, to win a match. Firpo has defeated many highly rated grapplers throughout the years and he feels he could easily handle Rose.

What made Firpo get into the world of wrestling?

"I have been an athlete all of my life," he announced. "When I was younger attending school I played baseball, football, track and I wrestled. I was excellent at all sports and I particularly enjoyed wrestling. I knew back then that wrestling was for me. It meant individual competition which I loved.

"I'll never forget my first match," he went on. "I was against Killer Kowalski and I thought he would kill me. I managed to hold him to a fifteen-minute time limit draw, which was good because he was very highly rated and it took a great wrestler to beat him.

"I continued wrestling and soon the word spread that I was capable and that I provided plenty of action in the ring. I started taking promoters up on their lucrative offers to travel across the world and wrestle. I wrestled for a long time in my home area of Argentina where my family was and huge crowds turned out to see me wrestle. Believe me, Pampero Firpo is a household name in Argentina."

Firpo still has many scores to settle with the top wrestlers of the world and he wants to get into the ring with Ivan Koloff, Billy Graham, Buddy Rose, and also Bob Backlund.

"Backlund is a fine youngster who is enjoying much success," Firpo admitted. "However, I have seen him wrestle and he lacks ability in a few places. I would like to wrestle him in a good, clean scientific match anywhere because I feel my experience would overrule his youth. He may be a great wrestler, however, I really feel he is not as great as I.

"I also want to win the United States heavyweight championship and defend the crown against all of the capable challengers in the world today and be known all over the world. I will continue to follow the rules if I can but if a wrestler comes along who wants to fight with chains and objects, then I will be ready for him."

The great Pampero Firpo has spoken. Those who know the man would agree it would be wise to listen to him.

THE BLOND BOMBERS ARE BACK!

(Continued from page 30)

West Coast. Both hold state records for attendance in California, the state they've adopted as their own. At brief intervals, they have also wrestled as heroes but always going back to the mold they feel most comfortable with, the villain image.

The two Californians are alike in many ways, colorful and showboating heavyweights who love the limelight. Over the years, they have even acquired a cult fan following if for no other reason than the fact that they are winners and people love winners. However, the large majority of ring enthusiasts would just as soon see the blonds dropped into the Bermuda Triangle.

Outside the ring, Stevens and Patterson are quite a contrast to the violent figures they present inside the squared circle. They are jokesters who love a good laugh as often as possible. They have learned to insulate themselves against the vehement hate that precedes them from arena to arena.

Patterson is a bachelor while Stevens may or may not be on his third marriage, according to scuttlebutt. Ray himself is mum on the subject although he does have quite a reputation as a ladies man.

Generally the more outgoing of the team, Patterson enjoys ribbing the less demonstrative of the fans with Don Rickles type put-downs of a humorous nature. It's as though he can't make up his mind whether he wants to be hated or loved at times.

Since incorporating Pat into the AWA, Stevens has become more reserved and prefers to let Pat be spokesman of the team. This arrangement suits Patterson well since one of the things he loves most is talking. His mouth is going constantly, both in the ring and out, with his distinctive Canadian accent serving him well.

Ray has been campaigning a long time as a pro with a well deserved reputation which began when he was fifteen years old when he convinced the athletic commission in his home state of Ohio that he was older.

"I was big for my age," explained Ray. "So I didn't have any trouble turning pro. I wrestled Joe Wolfe in my first match for twenty-five dollars. After that, I wrestled them all, Strangler Lewis, Lou Thesz, all the big names. People think I must be a hundred because I've been around so long but it's only because I started so early."

Patterson was a tough kid even back in high school in his native Montreal, Canada. "I loved breaking rules" he says. However, tournament officials frowned on such activities and young Pat found himself tossed out of several amateur mat meets. The blond toughie loved wrestling and hockey but after finishing school he choose the ring for a career, over parental objections.

Shortly after turning pro, Pat carried his trade to the United States to seek his fame and fortune. His travels took him first to

Boston, Oregon, Arizona and Texas before taking up permanent residence in California. Along the way the Canadian picked up a trunkful of ring titles including the Pacific Coast and North American championships.

Included among his accomplishments were the winning of the NWA world tag team championship in L.A. with Stevens and later regaining same with Rocky Johnson. Clearly then, Pat and Ray were not new to the tag team scene when they came to the AWA.

Patterson distains the necessity of labeling that prevails in wrestling, regarding his villain classification. "I wrestle the same way always but it depends on who you are wrestling as to who is the villain and who isn't. I don't concern myself with it either way. If they want to boo me, that's fine, if they want to cheer, that's okay too" explains Pat.

Away from the ring, Patterson favors golf as a relaxant. He likes to spend his evenings quietly at home mulling over various real estate deals he is always cooking up. Occasionally Pat takes in a Las Vegas show but stays away from the gambling casinos because "I work too hard for my money", he states.

When queried as to if he took vitamins or not, Pat replied; "No, I don't. Actually, the best vitamin is a Mexican girl. Put that in your story," he smiled.

Stevens differs from Patterson in the respect he does not enjoy spending a comfortable evening at home in bed reading. Instead, Ray is partial to the exciting nightlife. Whether it be racing his motorcycle at breakneck speed or bulldogging steers, he is a man of action. He works hard and plays hard.

Tag team wrestling is a special blend of grappling requiring the utmost cooperation between participants. It isn't enough that the two men are tremendous wrestlers on their own, you have to be able to work together night after night, and Pat and Ray do so without problems making them one of the most successful teams currently going.

Obviously, it is necessary that the two men respect and like each other. It is surprising how many don't. Ray calls Pat; "A better partner than Bockwinkle ever was".

One advantage the two blond rule-breakers have over most tag teams is that they have experienced the others abilities first hand. That is to say they had met each other in the ring often before actually forming their combination in California a few years ago.

"I wrestled Ray many, many times and got to know his style and he got to know mine," explained Pat, "We were able to use that to our advantage".

Further expounding on their success as a team, Patterson continued; "People say we look alike, which we do. We also think alike, we know what the other is thinking at all times. We don't hollar at each other during a match, just a quick nod and we know what to do. I can trust Ray and he can trust me. There is no captain, no boss of our team".

At present, the two blonds have not yet won the AWA tag title from Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell despite having had several title shots. All bouts in places like Minneapolis and Illinois have ended in disqualifications. However, as evident by the amount of punishment dished out, it seems evident that the day is not too far off when Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens will once again be the world tag team champions.

THE LUMBER JACKS: WWWF CHAMPIONS

(Continued from page 21)

down perfectly," Eric stated. "It didn't take too long for me and Pierre to get our moves together. Although we never really teamed together too much in the past, we've been good friends for a long time and we knew once we really started to team together we would be a success. It was the Captain who had the foresight to team us together on a regular basis. For this, we owe the man a debt of gratitude." Albano, who had been standing nearby, beamed as he heard his men speak. "That's right," Albano chimed in. "I saw in the Lumber Jacks the potential to be champions. I worked with them, guided them, perfected their holds, rounded off the rough edges. In short, molded them into a tough championship combination. Now that they are on top they will be next to impossible to defeat. Who is there to challenge them? Tony Garea and Larry Zbyszko, Haystacks Calhoun and Tony Garea, Gorilla Monsoon and S.D. Jones? Each one of these teams is a joke! From looking at the likes of their opponents I predict that my Lumber Jacks should hold the title at least until 1979 and quite possibly well into 1980 too!"

The Lumber Jacks are good. They are a well rounded team with knowledge of the various aspects of tag team competition. This knowledge should enable them to hold on to the WWWF title for quite some time to come. With Pierre's wrestling expertise and Eric's sheer unharnessed power, the two men from the Yukon should be two of the biggest stars in the sport for many years to come.

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HARLEY RACE VS. THE SHEIK

(Continued from page 51)

Champion had a few words for the many reporters on hand.

"This may seem hard to believe," Race began, "but I actually thought the referee was the Sheik. As you know, I had several large cuts above my eyes that were bleeding quite badly throughout the match. By the end of the contest I had blurred vision. As I laid helplessly on the ground, I saw someone coming toward me. The person approached me and grabbed me. My first thought was that the Sheik had returned. That's when I grabbed him and belted him. You see, I had no idea that it was the referee."

As of yet, no rematch had been signed. Could Harley Race survive another match against wrestling's most hated wrestler, The Sheik? Only the future can answer this question.

TONY GAREA

(Continued from page 54)

ductions were not given, the fans knew who they were watching, but they did not understand why the two men were trying to maim each other.

The animal pulled out all the stops in this contest. He was as vicious as he ever was. At one point during the match he threw Tony out of the ring and went after him. An official was thrown off his chair and Steele slammed it over the stunned Garea's head. It appeared as though Tony was on the verge of blacking out. Then George brought his opponent up and slammed his head into a press table.

George was confident of a victory and reentered the ring. He thought Tony would not be able to return. But, to the surprise of all, Garea slowly got up and went back to continue. He slowly got his adrenalin flowing and landed a perfect dropkick on the animal's jaw. George went flying out of the ring, where he took the ever present metal object out of his trunks. Climbing back into the ring, he caught Garea across the head with it. Then to make matters worse, he began hitting the New Zealand star again and again. The referee caught a glimpse of the metal and disqualified Steele. Once the dq was handed down, Steele stopped the pounding and ran into the dressing room to get away from the crowd, which was threatening to do him more physical harm than Garea intended to.

A very groggy Garea could be heard saying "I'll get him again, I'll get him again." He was helped back into the dressing room by the referee and disappeared from the concerned crowd. In three matches, he had won two, but not the way he intended.

Tony Garea still continues his vendetta against George Steele. No one knows when and where it will end. This writer is afraid the end of the feud will not be too pretty. There is too much hatred involved here to

forsee any other ending. We can only hope the loser of the feud will come back to wrestle another day.

FAN CLUB NEWS

(Continued from page 49)

PEN PAL SECTION

Richard Enriques, 95 K Street, Parlier, Ca. 93648 wants to hear from fans in Texas, Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Pa. and Arizona.

Rocco Buttofoco, 514 Ehret Road, Fairless Hills, Pa. 19030 would like to trade clips, programs, flyers from fans from all over.

Dennis Smith of 3489 Rayment Blvd., University Heights, Ohio 44118 wants to get some wrestling films and pictures on Mexican girls.

Norman Lee, 4634 SE 31st Ave., Portland, Oregon would like to trade programs, results, cassette tapes from fans in the US, Canada and overseas.

Miss Peggy Spaulding wants to exchange results, programs, clips and letters with fans from all over. Write to Peggy at: 8624 Blue Bell Dr., Louisville, Ky. 40219.

Adam Trauner, Railroad Ave., Barnstable Village, Massachusetts 02630. Adam would like to hear from fans in Texas, Oregon, Hawaii, Georgia and New Jersey.

Gerome Munoz would like to hear from fans from all over the world. Gerome's address is: 1039 Colon St., Wilmington, Ca 90744.

Fan club presidents, photographers and others that would like to be listed in this column are invited to send their material to me at the following address: Tom Burke, 31 Groveland St., Springfield, Mass. 01108.

MAT HEAR SAY

By DONNY LAIBLE

The Wrestling Fans International Association recently held their eleventh annual convention in Knoxville, Tenn. This year was no different from past conventions, a huge success. It was the largest gathering ever. Fans came from all over the U.S. and Canada. The conventioners were treated to films, displays, special guests and attended live matches in Knoxville and Tazewell. Les Thatcher did a fine job as the master of ceremonies. Bob Roop gave a nice speech on what professional wrestling has done for him and gave the fans an opportunity to ask questions. Executive Director of the W.F.I.A., Mike Gratchner, did a fantastic job in seeing that everything went smoothly.

The awards banquet was the highlight of the convention as many of the wrestlers appearing in the area showed up, such as: Ronnie Garvin, Ron Fuller, Phil Hickerson, Ron Wright, Dennis Condry, Joyce Grable and referee Ron Sexton. Next years convention will be held in Memphis, Tenn. and not only will the fans get to see N.W.A. stars in action but also A.A.W.A. wrestlers.

Victor Rivera has taken a turn for the worse and has thrown away the rule book. Many feel that Rivera's new manager, Freddie Blasse, has a lot to do with it. Tommy Gilbert gave N.W.A. Jr. Heavyweight Champ Nelson Royal a tough time defending his belt in Louisville, Ky.

Is the masked Jawbreaker and Don Carson the same person? The Grand Wizard has brought in The Super Destroyer to the east in hopes of dethroning Bob Backlund. Luis Martinez has recently refereed many title matches. Dutch Mantell continues to hold on to his N.W.A. Mid-America title. A new masked man has been appearing in the New England area for the New England Wrestling Alliance, known as The Hit Man. Dr. Jerry Graham and his oldest son, Jerry Jr. recently purchased a restaurant in downtown Toledo, Ohio called "Jerry's Place". The wrestling world was saddened to hear of the death of Moondog Mayne. Moondog was killed in a car crash in San Francisco. Blackjack Mulligan and The Sheik are fan favorites now. Wonder how long that will last. When not in training or wrestling, WWWF champ Bob Backlund's favorite past time is playing softball.

Six-time world champ Lou Thesz recently returned from a successful three week tour of Mexico. Before turning pro George Gulas was a referee in the N.B.A. Ivan Bulba is now promoting matches in Texas, when Bulba wrestled a few years ago, he was considered the maddest Russian ever to

step into the squared circle. Gorilla Monsoon is number one on the hate list of the fans in Toronto. Ann Casey is the N.W.A. ladies' champion, next step for her is a crack at Moolah's strap. Jerry King Lawler and Wayne Farris are cousins, both are appearing in the Memphis area. The Bedford arena has been the sight of Grand Prix wrestling in Nova Scotia, Canada. Machoman Randy Savage and Leaping Lanny Poffo have been feuding for some time with Savage just barely holding on to his Atlantic Grand Prix title. Floyd Cretchman is the top manager in the Detroit area. Bulldog Brower has been appearing on the Vega promotions in New York City a regular. He and Jack Veneno have had some classic battles. Butcher Vachon is leaving the W.W.W.F. area and heading to Japan. Dean Ho is doing very well in the San Francisco area. John Tolos and Steve Strong are a top tag-team in Hawaii. Tatsumi Fujimori continues to defend his W.W.W.F. Jr. Heavyweight belt throughout Japan. George Cannon is once again wrestling. Mil Mascaras is appearing at the Olympic in LA. Look for Ernie Ladd to tear up the WWWF.

Mike Paudus played in the Orange Bowl football game when in college before entering pro wrestling. An interesting match to determine who is the number one grappler in the Orient would be between Giant Baba and Antonio Inoki. Another Briscoe has entered the pro ranks of wrestling, Mike Briscoe. John Ruffen is the son of Cincinnati promoter Les Ruffen. Dick "The Brusier" beat Dick Murdoch in St. Louis for the Missouri state title. Boyd Pierce is perhaps the most popular T.V. announcer today. Boyd is noted for his flashy jacks.

The American Wrestling Alliance is perhaps the most unique of all the wrestling organizations. The A.W.A. promotes throughout the Mid-West in such cities as: Chicago, Minnesota, Duluth, Milwaukee and in parts of Canada. Former A.W.A. champ Verne Gagne gives many amateur wrestlers a chance to break into professional wrestling. Many former olympic stars have gone on to bigger and better things in the world of pro wrestling thanks to Verne and his training camp. To name a few: Chris Taylor, Bob Backlund, Evan Johnson, Bob Roop and Ken Palera. The greatest tag-team of all-time in many experts opinion, that has been active on the A.W.A. CIRCUIT FOR MANY YEARS, IS THE TEAM OF Dick "The Brusier" and The Crusher. Currently under contract to the A.W.A. are: BlackJack Lanza, Billy Robinson, Greg Gagne, Jim Brunzell, Super Destroyer, Nick Bockwinkel, Bob Orton Jr. and the villainous manager Bobby "the brain" Heenan. The American Wrestling Alliance is another reason why pro wrestling is the number one sport in the country.

Tony Atlas has been wearing a mask in some of his matches as of late and is being billed as the "Black Atlas". Orville Brown was the first N.W.A. heavyweight champion. Count Ludwig Von Speicher continues to lead his one man wrecking crew, Big Boris Livinsky to victory. Hans Schmidt is enjoying retired life in Vermont. Hans is a part-time security guard. Who would want to tangle with him? Pete Doherty and Pete Austin are now wrestling in Georgia.

Billy Berger has returned from his stay in Florida and in action in West Virginia. Billy's main reason for coming back is to regain the Central states championship he once held.

Jack Claybourne is taking the New Zealand mat scene by storm with his leaping and flying ability. You may remember that a few years ago Jack was wrestling in Vermont and Montreal as Edouard Etlier.

The new women have hit the wrestling mat wars, they are Lil Cannonball and Kim Liwana. Rocky Johnson has done some boxing with both Muhammad Ali and George Foreman.

King Custis recently drew with Pampero Firpo. Be on the look out for another Superdome wrestling Extravaganza in the fall. Eric the Red still uses his bone to aid him during his matches. David Morgan is one of England's finest young wrestlers to come to this country in years. Ripper Collins and Whipper Watson Jr. are doing fine as a team under the Nick Gulas promotions.

Fred Curry doing all his "flying" in the ring as usual, continues his winning ways in Ohio. The Yukon Lumberjacks continue to dominate the east coast in tag-team competition. With Louis Albano as their leader, it will be some time before some one can out smart them for the belts. Billy Anderson is ready to start thrilling the fans in Arizona but first he'll be appearing in the A.W.A. rings in the Chicago area. Chris Colt back in action after some time. Arnie Skoaland doing a fine job as Bob Backlund's manager. Now that Bruno Sammartino is back wrestling on a regular basis, Arnie has got to have two of the greatest wrestlers of all-time in his stable. Roddie Piper turned out to be the masked Canadian in Calif. Johnny Hunter continues to defend his Eastern Wrestling Association's belt against some of the roughest and toughest competition anywhere. Garth Vader now wrestling in Detroit is being confused by many as he is called Darth Vader from the movie, "Star Wars". Andre the Giant is still the biggest box office draw in wrestling. Killer Kowalski has been spending a lot of time lately in parts of Canada, wonder if he plans a comeback? Dory Funk Jr. came close to getting back his championship belt from Harley Race recently on Stu Hart's annual Stampede card in Calgary. Chief White Feathers is one to keep your eyes on, the young native American is loaded with skill, speed and knowledge and once he gets the experience, look out. Write to me: Donny Laible, R.D. #1 Box 192 D, Burlington Flats, New York 13315

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING NEWS

By TERRY ROBERT JUSTICE

Andre The Giant took on two really tough opponents in separate matches one night recently in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. First he faced his regularly scheduled opponent, Waldo Von Erich. This proved to be a surprisingly even match, but after a while, Von Erich decided enough was enough and left the ring, refusing to return. He was declared the loser by a count-out. A.W.A. world's heavyweight cham-

pion Nick Bockwinkel had originally been signed to defend his laurels against Angelo "King Kong" Mosca in the main event, but Mosca pulled out several days before the card due to injury and was replaced by Edouard Carpentier. However, by match time, Carpentier was also unable to compete. Promoter Frank Tunney put Andre in as a substitute despite the fact that The Giant had only a little earlier finished his match with Von Erich. Bockwinkel had Andre near defeat on several occasions, but The Giant suddenly came back strong. Following the example set earlier in the evening by Von Erich, Bockwinkel left the ring, refused to return, and was declared loser by a count-out.

Bobby Backlund, champion of the W.W.F., appeared on the same card and after absorbing some wicked bear-hugs and judo chops, came off the ropes to pin Gorilla Monsoon. This was Monsoon's fourth appearance as a villain this year in Maple Leaf Gardens. It all started three cards earlier when Monsoon and Andre The Giant were paired in a tag team match against Ray Stevens and Pat Patterson. Andre at one point went to hit one of his blond opponents but accidentally struck Monsoon instead. Angered, the Gorilla attacked his partner and joined Stevens and Patterson in triple-teaming Andre. That match was declared a "no contest". Thus the transition in one night occurred for Monsoon, from hero to villain. On the next card, Gorilla annihilated the much smaller Nick DeCarlo. A show later, Dominic DeNucci was the victim of Monsoon, giving up to a bear-hug. DeNucci had attacked Monsoon before the bell and bloodied the Gorilla up. In fact when the bout ended, Monsoon still had his warm-up jacket on!

An interested spectator at this show featuring Monsoon against Backlund was Eddie Gilbert, son of top Southern mat star Tommy Gilbert. Eddie flew all the way up North from Memphis, Tennessee, to get his first glimpse of Toronto mat action.

Back in the 1950's and 60's, one of the big names on pro-wrestling cards across the continent was Gorgeous George Grant, not to be confused with Gorgeous George Wagner. Grant no longer wrestles but still tours North America, as an evangelist this time. Often he'll conduct a fascinating question and answer session with his audiences before delivering an inspirational message. The Q and A session of course deals 99% with wrestling, while the message deals with his joy in becoming a Christian. Try to see and hear him if he speaks near or in your area, it will be well worth your while.

Dr. Jerry Graham, the ever popular "Toast of the East Coast," drew some big crowds in the New York City area competing on an independent promotion's cards. From "The Big Apple" he journeyed to Rochester, N.Y. to visit some friends with whom he went fishing in The Thousand Islands where the good doctor hauled in five large bass.

Leaping Lanny Poffo and Randy "Macho Man" Savage had quite a feud going up in Nova Scotia, Canada this season. When matches finally returned to Halifax, those two were the headliners. At one point, Lanny shared the tag team honors with Emile Dupre while Randy boasted possession of the singles championship. The Carpet Bagger is another wrestler making a name for himself in that territory at press time.

Heather Feather, heaviest of the lady pro-wrestlers, was defeating male opponents on the Detroit, Michigan circuit not too many months back. But when she later journeyed down to the Nick Gulas circuit (Alabama-Kentucky-Tennessee) Heather went one better and defeated a live 714 pound bear! Where does she go from here?

The newest thing in pro-wrestling is combining stars from different circuits. It has been going on for some time on a smaller scale, of course. Toronto combined its own regulars (Chris Tolos, Sweet Daddy Siki, The Crusaders, Canadian Wildman, etc.) with stars from both the A.W.A. and the W.W.F. No, there never was a showdown between Nick Bockwinkel and Bobby Backlund, in fact, not even a hint of one. At any rate, as this article was being written, it appeared the A.W.A. was about to be pulled out of Toronto and the Mid-Atlantic stars (Ric Flair, Paul Jones, Ricky Steamboat, Tony Atlas, etc.) would move in. The A.W.A. had already merged, so to speak, with the Jerry Jarrett promotion which operates out of Memphis, Tennessee, where Bockwinkel defended his belt against Jerry "The King" Lawler and came out the loser by a disqualification. According to reports, the archival promotion to Jarrett's down South, the Nick Gulas promotion, was planning to form some sort of merger with the W.W.F.

Notes from all over: The Brisco brothers split up in St. Louis, Missouri, and had mixed success as a result. Jack pinned Dory Funk, Jr. with a reverse full nelson but Jerry was beaten by Ted DiBiase's figure-four leglock. Nelson Royal came very close to losing his N.W.A. world's Jr. heavyweight title to Tommy Gilbert in a series of matches in the Jarrett promotion. Stan Hanson returned to his evil ways in Georgia, teaming up with Ivan Koloff against his former friends Tommy Rich and Dick Slater in Augusta for what ended up a "no contest". Former N.W.A. world's heavyweight champion Gene "Big Thunder" Kiniski remains active on the Seattle, Washington-Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada circuit. Dick "Bulldog" Brower has been active on the independent C.W.C. circuit in West Virginia where he was being billed as world champion.

Down in Abilene, Texas, The Lawman regained his world's chain fighting championship from Killer Karl Krupp. All over Texas some great matches have been taking place between the Funk brothers, Dory Jr. and Terry, and the Von Erich brothers, David and Kevin. A third Von Erich brother, Kerry, did turn professional and shows a lot of promise, but right now his main concern is his studies at the University of Houston, which he is attending on a track scholarship resulting from his exceptional high school performances in the discus event. Wahoo McDaniel was competing mainly in Florida, but did venture up to the A.W.A. for several unsuccessful attempts to snare Nick Bockwinkel's title.

Boyd Pierce, outstanding ring announcer in Texas, also travels to Louisiana where he hosts the very popular TV wrestling shows in the Bayou State. Former mat great "Emperor" Jones passed away recently in Canada. Fans still wish Buddy "Nature Boy" Rogers would make a comeback. Picture him and Ric Flair as a tag team—or as opponents!

WORLD'S OLDEST SPORT ATTRACTS THE FAMOUS

(Continued from page 61)

guest watching spellbound.

Northern promoter Max Crabtree, who explained some of the finer points of the game to the Duke, testified how much His Royal Highness enjoyed the evening. Presidents, Prime Ministers, Heads of State and Governors are not uncommon at wrestling tournaments throughout the world.

In India, the Premier, Mr. Nerhu used to personally greet all visiting wrestlers who took part in contests at the huge open-air stadiums. Crowds of up to 110,000 were common at big Indian tournaments.

Both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln performed on the mat during their youth, but still another American president excelled in wrestling—William H. Taft, who was champion of Yale in his college days.

Another American president, Andrew Jackson, was an excellent amateur wrestler.

George Washington, in addition to his other feats of strength, was known as the champion wrestler of Virginia. He put down all comers until his eighteenth year. When engaged in the more serious things of life, he discontinued active competition.

Abe Lincoln was a fine amateur wrestler and, as a lad, he frequently won over lads his own age, and much older.

Like George Washington, Lincoln was extremely fond of arduous exercises and was also a good athlete. Undoubtedly the roughest of the wrestlers who became presidents, Lincoln progressed markedly between the age of nineteen when he was employed near Mayhem to defend his step-brother's river barge from the ravages of the Natchez thugs, and 29, when he cautiously mentioned himself as possibly the second best wrestler in Southern Illinois.

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BRITISH AND IRISH WRESTLING SCENE

By PETER NULTY

THE FLYING SCOTS for many years one of Britain's most skillful and popular tag teams are still very much to the fore in the tag team ratings. When Jim McKenzie retired from the ring a couple of years ago Commonwealth champion Bill Ross tagged with several other Scottish wrestlers, including Lee Thomas, and Tom Dowie but it was Scottish lightweight champion Len Ironsides that Bill chose to fill the void left by McKenzie. Len was trained for the pro ring by former World champion George Kidd and ace promoter Max Crabtree. He has been wrestling for six years and won the Scottish title three years ago in an open competition. He has defeated many of the top British lightweights including former British and European champion Bob Ryan, former British champion Zoltan Boscik, Jackie Pallo Jr. and Steve Best and would like nothing better than to meet European champion Jim Breaks in a title bout.

Bill Ross, now wrestling in the middleweight division, recently met and defeated Adrian Street for a version of the world middleweight title but because Street was over the middleweight limit the bout wasn't recognized as a title match. However a return contest is being arranged as soon as possible and Street will have to be in top form if he wants to keep that title.

As Bill now lives in Drumoak just ten miles from Len's home in Aberdeen they can be usually found in the local gym during the day working out new moves and counters.

The Flying Scots are the only tag team in Britain made up of two champions and in the absence of tag team championships in Britain, Bill Ross and Len Ironsides must be regarded as the leading contenders for such a title should the Board of Control decide to initiate tag team championships in the near future.

ROY SLICLAIR, the popular mid heavyweight from Manchester has hung up his boots to look after the family public house in Manchester. Roy's retirement came as a shock to the fans as the SLICLAIR supporters had high hopes of seeing Roy take over as British mid heavyweight crown when Mike Marino finally calls it a day. Roy's brother Tony already holds the heavyweight title.

Roy was one of those wrestlers that have wrestled their way right up through the weights during their career. He was trained for the ring by his famous father, Francis SLICLAIR Gregory, who was one of the top heavies of the 1960's. He had his first pro fight against Jim Mellor in the early sixties within a few years he had taken the British light heavyweight title from Ernie Riley (Roy recently failed to take the same title off the present champion Marty Jones). He held this title for four months before losing it back to Riley. Over the years Roy has proved to be a great favorite with German audiences and he spent several months every year wrestling in that country. The tournaments in Germany and the cards all over the British Isles just will not be the same without him.

JIM BREAKS proudly strapped the world lightweight championship belt around his waist at the St. Georges Hall in Bradford recently after getting a submission from Johnny Saint but his reign was short-lived. Referee Dave Reece disallowed the fall because of Breaks illegal tactics. So the bout continued and an enraged Saint wrapped it up almost as soon as the bell rang to continue the bout to retain his title.

On the same card at Bradford Pat Roach the wild-eyed red-haired brawler walked out of the ring to leave British champion Tony SLICLAIR the winner. Roach had gone ahead with a fall early in the bout. SLICLAIR scored the equalizer when Roach attacked referee Reece. Pat had accidentally knocked Reece over and as Dave hit the canvas, his leg came up and caught Roach in the groin. Roach then lifted Reece in order to deliver a body slam but SLICLAIR knocked him off balance and held him down for the equalizing fall. Roach then stormed out of the ring to leave SLICLAIR the winner.

RASPUTIN THE MAD MONK in the ring is arrogant, ruthless and bad tempered but out of the ring he seems to keep to himself. Even in the company of fellow wrestlers he tends to stand apart, aloof, brooding.

Most fans suspect that this enigmatic Irishman is basically a shy person who covers his shyness with bombast and blunt comment. Wrestling fans are quick to condemn him and make no allowance for whatever motivates the man inside the Rasputin we see stalking dangerously around his opponent. Opponents themselves frequently slam into him verbally as well as physically, but this master rule bender seems unconcerned about other people's opinions, after all he knows that his reputation just about puts him at the top of the tree in this country for financial rewards.

DALE MARTIN PROMOTIONS, the premier promoters in the South of England staged yet another of their all star spectacles at the mammoth Fairfield Halls in Croydon when eleven top stars grappled in a knockout competition for a massive trophy donated by the William Hill Organization.

The draw for the preliminaries was made earlier in the day at the Dale Martin offices in London. As British heavyweight champion Tony SLICLAIR's opponent Ray "Thunder" Glendenning didn't turn up on the night Tony got a bye into the semi finals.

Bert Royal, former heavy middleweight champion, and Yorkshire's "Crybaby" Sid Cooper opened the proceedings. Cooper now shaven headed after losing a special challenge match recently, put up a great fight but the former champion was in great form and scored the only fall required for victory in the third round.

Pete Roberts, just returned from the German tournaments, was next in the ring to meet Lee Bronson from London. This was heavyweight wrestling at its best with both men going all out for victory. Bronson has certainly come a long way since his pro debut several years ago. He made the much more experienced Roberts fight all the way before being trapped in a body cradle in the third round.

Local favorite Jack Armstrong got a rousing reception when he entered the ring to do battle with The Mask. Armstrong is a magnificently built athlete who is going to go a long way in his chosen profession. After going over the top rope in the sec-

ond round both men failed to beat the count of ten. Armstrong was the most seriously injured of the two and had to be carried back to the dressing room.

Mark Rocco, the reigning British heavy middleweight champion and probably one of the most hated wrestlers in Britain then took on the much heavier clown prince Billy Torontos, the Chicago express, who is now living in London. Despite his weight advantage, Torontos was no match for the youthful Rocco and the mean machine scored a single leg "Boston submission" in the third round to win the bout.

The Gay One (Al Vippon) making one of his rare appearances in southern rings battled with golden boy Vic Faulkner, one half of the famous Royal Brothers tag team from Bolton. With his long blond hair and wearing a blue and orange cat suit, the Gay One pranced around the ring trying to catch Faulkner off guard but the Bolton favorite was having none of it and "wrestled the pants" off the Gay One to win with a fall early in the second round. And so after five contests there was five wrestlers left in the competition. Then, on the loss of a coin Bert Royal won through to the finals on a bye. When the action restarted Mean Machine Rocco made short work of Faulkner winning with a submission in the first round, and Tony SLICLAIR won the only fall of a heavyweight battle to defeat Pete Roberts.

And then there was three! This time it was Rocco who won his way through to the grand final on a bye. The crowd were treated to a first class match between Royal and SLICLAIR. Both wrestlers won applause from the crowd for their neat, sporting and skillful moves and what a pity it ended prematurely in the second round. Caught on the wrong end of a posting, Royal put his foot up to stop himself from hitting the post but unfortunately he mistimed the move and crashed groin first into the turnbuckle. Royal was unable to continue which meant SLICLAIR was through to the grand final to meet Rocco.

And what a final. From the first bell the crowd were on their feet and Rocco wasn't long about bringing them to the boiling point. He had the crowd worked up so much that when he was thrown from the ring during the second round they attacked him and referee Peter Szakacs and ring officials had to go to his assistance. When Rocco eventually made his way back to the ring SLICLAIR wasted no time in finishing the bout to become the outright winner of the competition with the only fall needed for victory.

"GOLDBELT" BRIAN MAXINE, the self styled king of the ring has many fans who are quick to spring to his defense should anyone suggest that such a claim is spurious.

As the British middleweight champion and Admiral Lord Mountbatten gold belt holder he has some grounds for blowing his own trumpet, or should I say strumming his own guitar? For that is what he seems to be doing more and more these days. Brian has quite definitely carved a niche for himself in the world of country music. He has appeared at the famous Nashville Rooms in London and has been heard many times on British radio singing songs from his three albums.

In the wrestling arena many fans and opponents like to put him down as a big head but even they can't detract from the fact that he is up among the top men in three weight divisions. Those wishing to join Brian's fan club can do so by writing to Mrs. Betty Addison, "Shangri La", 8 Grange Road, Penkridge, Stafford St. 195 NJ, England. Membership is one dollar per year and as well as the usual photos and results, etc., that other fans clubs offer, Brian also sends each member a personally signed Christmas card and birthday card on their birthday.

MIKE MARINO, the British mid heavyweight champion is the only man still holding the same title he held this time ten years ago. Mike won the title from Norman Walsh in 1966 and since then he has successfully defended it against all comers including Lord Albert Hayes, Les Thornton, Geoff Portz, Tony Charles, Pete Roberts and Terry Rudge. Marino is held in very high regard by his fellow wrestlers and when Mike is in action, many of the wrestlers on the same card can very often be seen sitting at the back of the hall watching the brilliant moves and counters of the master champion.

Although **JIM BREAKS** has spent most of the past ten years campaigning in the lightweight division—holding both the British and European titles, it was the welterweight title he held this time ten years ago. He had just lost his lightweight title to Al Miquet and moved up a weight to take the welterweight title off Alan Serjant.

BILLY ROBINSON was king of the heavies in 1968. He won the title in January 1967 and in the following twelve months he won several of the big German tournaments and a version of the world title which he won in Japan. Robinson was one of the most popular champions and many fans, especially those in Manchester didn't agree with the Board of Control's decision to take the title off Billy in 1970. Because the title had gone undefended for over two years due to Bill's extended stay in the United States, the Board of Control thought it only right and proper that the two leading contenders should have a chance to challenge for the title.

At the other end of the scale Al Miquet was boss of the lightweights ten years ago. Son of the burly ex-heavyweight Don Mendoza, Al is currently wrestling on the Independent circuit where he has held a version of the European middleweight title.

CLAYTON THOMSON of Glasgow was middleweight champion in 1968. He took the title off Bert Royal at Nottingham in 1966. Often billed as the "Houdini of the ring", Clay was one of the best of the scientific type wrestlers—probably second only to the great George Kidd. Several years ago Thomson decided to wear a mask and although he remained undefeated, a recurring spinal injury forced him to retire from the ring a couple of years ago.

ERNE RILEY from Wigan was light heavyweight champion in 1968. Ernie was trained for the ring by his famous father. Billy who was responsible for training many of today's champions. Very few light heavyweights could stand up to Ernie in the ring and he usually fought mid heavyweights and heavyweights.

ERIC TAYLOR from Bradford was one of the most entertaining and cleverest grapplers in the heavy middleweight division. In 1968 he had already held the title for more than ten years despite persistent challenges from the Dewsbury farmer Harry Fields, Tony Charles and John Foley. Like Ernie Riley, Taylor often wrestled above his weight and some of his heavier opponents included Canadian heavyweight Gordon Nelson, the colorful Chief Peter Maivia and "The Fox" Les Kellett.

WORLD MAT NEWS

By GREG GERSON

Paul Jones and Ricky Steamboat have won the **NWA World Tag Team Title in Greensboro, North Carolina**. Bruno Sammartino won the **World Power Lifting Championship** in 1958. Bruno also used to be an amateur boxer. Puerto Rico wrestling recently has had some fine array of talent like Pedro Morales, Cowboy Bob Ellis, Bobby Duncan, Carlos Colon, and the living legend, Bruno Sammartino. Recently, I was turning the radio dial and heard Freddie Blasie singing "Pencil Neck Geek" on the Doctor Demento show. The show is on from 10:00 to 12:00 on Sunday night on station 99X FM in New York City. Try it and you might hear old Freddie himself.

In **Abolene, Texas**, the Sheik defeated Andre the Giant on a DQ. . . The Great Texas, Stan Hansen is a rule-breaker again in Georgia. . . Ever wondered what happened to Bugsy McGraw? Well, he's been wrestling in Oklahoma.

Recently the Sheik has been pitted against the rulebreakers in Detroit. The Sheik has to be one of the dirtiest wrestlers of all times. . . Stan Stasiak has been wrestling for 22 years. The Heart Punch specialist got his start in Canada.

Mighty Igor is now wrestling in the AWA. . . Rocky Johnson is wrestling very well in Texas, he's giving his opponents real soul. . . Dusty Rhodes is brawling in Florida with Killer Karl Kox.

Bob Backlund and Peter Maivia are joining forces to conquer the WWWF as a tag team. . . Ernie Ladd has come to the WWWF and says he would like to wrestle Bruno Sammartino. . . Wahoo McDaniel is in Florida. . . There is going to be a movie about wrestling with Sly Stallone and wrestling's own Terry Funk. Sly says he's doing the film because wrestling fans wrote to tell him they would like a wrestling movie.

Wahoo McDaniels was offered a baseball and football contract in his younger days. Independent wrestling is very good with wrestlers like Lou Thesz—five time NWA champ, Gorgeous George Jr., the Might Bigfoot (7' 507 pounds), Dr. Jerry Graham, and a host of others. Stan "The Man" Stasiak's heart punch has had its day, his opponents have become experts at blocking it.

Superstar Billy Graham used to play pro football for the Philadelphia Eagles as a linebacker. . . A masked wrestler named Avaldi Slim was in a couple of matches in Florida with Jerry Brisco. Many fans think Slim bears a strong resemblance to none other than the American Dream, Dusty Rhodes. Avaldi and Brisco lost to the Spoilers 1 and 2. Before wrestling Sonny King played basketball for the Harlem Globetrotters. The great Don Leo Jonathan was a sheriff in his native Utah. At 6' 9", 300 pounds, Jonathan must have made law and order prevail. . . Andre the Giant was once the Cosmo's goalie. Ken Patera took the Mid-Atlantic title from Wahoo McDaniel. Lou Albano is doing a super job managing WWWF tag team champions, the Lumberjacks. . . Wrestling couldn't ask for a better manager than the Captain Lou Albano. . . The big news in the wrestling world is that the former WWWF champion Bruno Sammartino will make an appearance in Madison Square Garden against Superstar Billy Graham.

If any wrestling fans have any comments or suggestions they can write to this writer at 331 Sackett St. Brooklyn, New York 11231.

SUNNY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

By KURT BROWN

Both Northern and Southern California suffered a loss when "The Moondog" **Lonnie Mayne** died in an automobile accident after a match in San Bernardino. At the time of his death Mayne held the America's Heavyweight championship as well as the United States Heavyweight championship, the two most prominent titles in the state of California. The Moondog will be remembered as a true legend in wrestling, and will be missed by all who watched him dominate California this past year.

At the **San Diego Coliseum**: Carlos Mata won over the Goliath. . . Black Gorman and his newest partner, who is simply called "Go", took the America's tag team belts from Mr. Ito and Pak Choo. . . India's Gama Singh won over Pak Choo, doing double duty. . . Hector Guerrero took the late Moondog Mayne's place and got a win over Roddy Piper.

On another **San Diego Coliseum** show: Carlos Mata beat The Great Goliath, who has been on a bit of a losing streak since splitting up with Black Gorman last spring. . . Black Gorman and Hector Guerrero won over Mr. Ito and Pak Choo in a bout where the loser of the fall would leave the area, and Mr. Ito was the man who wound up packing his suitcase. . . After a 30 minute time limit expired, Japan's "Go" outscored Armando Guerrero in a scientific match.

In the main event, Scotland's Roddy Piper won over Chavo Guerrero when the eldest of the Guerrero Bros. ended up disqualified, putting a grin on Piper's face. The crowd numbered 1,791.

Onan Olympic Auditorium card: (Televised live) Chavo Guerrero over Goliath when Superstar Billy Graham interfered, giving Chavo a "Superstar Bearhug". . . Black Gorman over Rex Arnold. . . Billy Graham over Carlos Mata when (You guessed it) Chavo Guerrero interfered.

After an absence of two years, Java Ruuk is returning to the Southland. Ruuk, the winner of the 1976 Los Angeles Battle Royal, has a unique as well as classy style of wrestling which should be welcomed by Southern California. . . Coming to the area soon will be Jemelo Blanco, "The Continental Lover" Eddie Mansfield, and a famous team from Mexico, Dr. Wagner and El Angel Blanco. . . After a rather bad year in 1977, wrestling in Southern California has improved considerably in '78. . . LA's televised shows have Gene La Belle, Miguel Alonzo, Jeff Walton, and Louie Maga on describing the action with Jimmy Lennon, a fine ring announcer. . . Other wrestlers appearing here presently are Tonga and Tokyo Joe.

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